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5 FEBRUARY 1988



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JPRS Report

East Asia

Southeast Asia

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JPRS-SEA-88-003

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Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With ROK

42000202d Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English
18 Dec 87 p 5

[Text] Indonesia has been engaged in technical cooperation with South Korea in preparation of an integrated urban infrastructure development project in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan. The memorandum of understanding for the technical cooperation agreement was signed here recently by Minister of Public Works Suyono Sosrodarsono and South Korean Ambassador to Indonesia Young-Sup Kim.

The Indonesian Public Works Department and the Korean Ministry of Construction have agreed to carry out the study of the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Redevelopment Project (IUIDP) in Balikpapan with grants from the Korean Government.

This agreement is based on the spirit of the agreement regarding economic and technical cooperation and trade promotion signed by the two governments on April 24, 1971, and the subsequent memorandum of understanding between the construction ministers dated September 29, 1978.

The Balikpapan project is the fifth project after the feasibility studies on Pemali river flood control and Bukit Tinggi by-pass were signed in December 1984 and the IUIDP for Bandar Lampung and Padang by-pass were signed in December 1985.

Grants from South Korea for the five projects amount to approximately US\$ 2.45 million.

/9738

Oil Export to Japan Rises

42000202a Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 24 Dec 87 p A3

[Text] Tokyo, 12 Dec (ANTARA)—Indonesia's crude oil exports to Japan in November reached 2,387,100 kiloliters of 13 percent of Japan's total oil imports that month, 18.41 million kl., ANTARA learnt from reports made by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Thursday.

Compared to the corresponding period last year, the figures show a 12.5 percent increase, whereas in October it experienced an increase of 7.1 percent.

MITI also reported that last month Japan's imports of oil increased sharply, which mainly was due to speculations of a drop in oil prices after the recent meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) in Vienna.

In November Indonesia was the third biggest oil supplier to Japan after the United Arab Emirates with 3.93 million kl (up 30.4 percent than last year's figures), and Saudi Arabia with a 2.97 million kl, (up 169.0 percent).

Indonesia's share in Japan's oil imports during 1987 has been improving from the previous years, formerly from the average 12.6 percent to this year's 13.9 percent.

/9738

Governor Describes East Timor's Progress

42000202b Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 27 Dec 87 pp A3-A5

[Text] Dili, Dec 27 (ANTARA)—Security in the East Timor province is well controlled in 1987 and people in the province expect bright prospect in social life in 1988, East Timor governor Ir. Mario Viegas Carrascalao has stated.

Speaking at a year-end press meeting here recently, the governor said further that the rapid improvement of security in East Timor gave a hint of progress to be made in the development policy, administration and social life in this Indonesian youngest province.

With the improvement of the security condition, people in the province now can enjoy a peaceful situation and they can go anywhere without feeling fearful of any threat, according to Carrascalao.

People who live in Dili, the capital of the province, and all capitals of regencies have left for their villages to celebrate the Christmas Day together with their families and relatives, he said.

Development

Since the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia, the former Portuguese colony has made much progress in economic development, reflected by the improvement of people's livelihood and prosperity in all areas throughout the province, he said.

He also mentioned rapid development in the educational, agricultural, health and communications sectors as well as the improvement of the state apparatus in the province. Further improvement is expected in 1988, he said.

The provincial administration is determined to secure equitable distribution of development projects to all contractor companies found in the province, the governor confirmed.

He admitted, however, that the realization of development programs in East Timor was still hampered by manipulations. But the number of manipulation and

deviation cases has continued to decline thanks to the perseverance of the state apparatus in the province to combat such violation, he added.

Better quality

Carrascalao expressed happiness on the occasion for improvement in the quality of development proceeds in East Timor in 1987/88 despite the development budget allocated for the province in the current fiscal year was smaller than that in 1986/87.

Referring to development in the communications sector, he said all capitals of regencies in East Timor were expected have been linked one another with asphalted roads by the end of 1988.

He disclosed that nine out of the 12 capitals of regencies in the province had been connected one another at present with asphalted roads.

Road betterment in three other regencies is currently underway. The natural condition of those areas has caused the unsmooth development of road networks in those regencies, Carrascalao said.

Education

Touching on the development of the educational sector, the governor said the available junior and senior high schools in the province are still unable to accommodate students who wanted to continue their study.

The provincial administration, therefore, endeavors to set up many more schools to give place to graduates of elementary schools and junior high schools who want to continue their study.

He admitted that new schools to be built in 1988 was still inadequate to cope with the rapid growth in the number of students. He expressed confidence that the problem would be overcome in 1989.

He also pointed out that the fast growth in the number of educated job seekers had fostered the provincial administration to pay greater attention to the creation of job opportunities in the province.

In the effort to cope with unemployment in 1988, the provincial administration will give priority to the creation of job opportunities in the villages to boost development activities in rural areas and to reduce the flow of people from the villages to the capital of the province.

He stated that private investors were expected to participate in the realization of development programs in East Timor as the government investments had been shrinking.

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Japanese Said To Fear Investing in PNG
42000189a Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA
POST-COURIER in English 30 Nov 87 p 3

[Article by Blaise Nangoi, Tokyo]

[Text] The PNG Government should direct more attention to creating a more secure investment climate, a leading Japanese official said on Friday.

This was the feeling of the Japanese business community, said Mr Shigeo Matsutomi, deputy director of the Oceania division in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Japanese investors had not fully regained confidence in investment opportunities in PNG after the Government's handing of Japanese company which was virtually booted out after claims it had breached its operations agreement in New Britain.

This left Japanese business people regarding the investment climate in PNG as "very unstable", he said.

Mr Matsutomi said Japanese investors would remain hesitant to invest in Papua New Guinea unless the Government spelled out its policy guidelines clearly.

He added that Japan's "healthy relations" with PNG and the rest of the South Pacific could be affected by "bloc" politics in the region. This was in relation to the formation of groups in the South Pacific Forum earlier this year.

PNG, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands established the Melanesian Spearhead group, leading to other forum countries forming their own groups at last May's Forum meeting.

/06662

Indonesian Military Crossing Into Country Alleged
42000189d Port Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA
POST-COURIER 1 Dec 87 p 2

[Text] Indonesian soldiers are alleged to have crossed over to the PNG side of the international frontier in West Sepik Province.

Prime Minister Mr Wingti told Parliament yesterday that PNG's intelligence agency, the National Intelligence Organisation, had given him information about the alleged border intrusion last week, but without any detail.

The Member for Vanimo-Green River, Mr Wap Yawo, alerted Parliament on the matter. He said he had received a telephone call from the border informing him that about 200 Indonesian soldiers had crossed into PNG territory.

He did not tell Parliament where exactly on the border the incursion took place.

But outside Parliament he said the Indonesian soldiers crossed into the Kembaratoro area last week and were in the jungles of that area.

Mr Yawo asked Mr Wingti in the chamber why the soldiers had crossed over.

He asked for an explanation as to whether the soldiers were in the area to "take over PNG" or to destroy the free Papuan Movement, OPM.

Mr Wingti and Mr Yawo met about 1 pm yesterday to discuss the matter. Neither would comment on the outcome of the meeting.

/06662

Palestinian Archbishop Meets Yan, Vidal During Solidarity Visit to Manila

42000199 Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 23 Dec 87 pp 3, 4, 5, 42

[Article by Jose F. Lacaba: "Hopes for Peace"]

[Excerpts] In 1946 Georges Capucci of Palestine, then a territory ruled by Britain under a League of Nations mandate, was ordained a Catholic priest. He took the name Hilarion. He was 24 years old.

Bishop Capucci was fond of saying, "I do not like to pursue the unnecessary when so many are dying of hunger and the cold." He devoted his energies to giving humanitarian aid to the disinherited and the dispossessed, making no distinctions between different communities and religions. His "preferential option for the poor" inevitably brought the Catholic bishop, himself a Palestinian Arab, into contact with Palestinian nationalism and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Filipinos familiar with Ninoy Aquino's detention story will find many interesting parallels in the bishop's subsequent career. Bishop Capucci was arrested by Israeli authorities in 1974 on charges of transporting firearms for the PLO. He denied the charges and refused to take part in the trial. Toward the end of 1977 he went on a 40-day hunger strike and, upon the intervention of Pope Paul VI, was eventually released. But the condition for his release was exile—and to this day, a full decade later, Bishop Capucci has not seen or set foot on his homeland and his diocese.

The bishop was in Manila recently to attend a celebration sponsored by the University of the Philippines, of a UN-declared day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. He didn't make it to the UP, however; at the last minute he learned that his meeting with a top Department of Foreign Affairs official, Undersecretary Manuel Yan, had been scheduled on the same date, at the same time.

Like Yasser Arafat of the PLO, he referred to Filipinos as Philippinos; he also referred to Israelis as Israelians.

[Question] What brings you to the Philippines, Bishop? You're not here on an official visit, are you?

[Answer] I have two aims. First, to bring to the Philippine people, on behalf of the Arab and Palestinian people, and to the President of the Philippines, Madame Aquino, and her government, our best regards and our wishes for the prosperity of this country—spiritually morally, materially. This prosperity can't be done without a national unity, so our best wishes are for the progress of this country through national unity. Then, as bishop of Jerusalem, also, I am bringing with me the best wishes of the believers of the Holy Land and Jerusalem, praying for the church of the Philippines, its leaders and its believers.

I came specifically to attend a meeting on the occasion of the day devoted to the United Nations to solidarity with the Palestinian people. But unfortunately I couldn't go to that meeting because at the same time I had another meeting with the undersecretary of foreign affairs, Mr. Manuel Yan.

For this visit, I have at the bottom of my heart this problem, this Palestinian problem, which is a tragedy, because it is the problem of 5 million Palestinians, some of whom are living in exile, without unity because without country, and the other half of whom are living under occupation—this means without liberty, this means as strangers in their homeland and as slaves in their own houses. Practically all those Palestinians are martyrs, are suffering morally, spiritually, materially. As responsible bishop of Jerusalem, I am not their master. On the contrary, the bishop is a servant, the brother of any person who is living in his diocese. So it is my duty as pastor to defend my sheep, and that is why I am defending the Palestinian cause, which is for me a humanitarian cause. Of course, it has a political side, but as bishop as a religious person, my interest is the humanitarian side of this issue.

[Question] Right now you are in exile, you are not living in Jerusalem.

[Answer] I am an exile. After being in jail for 3 and 1/2 years, the Vatican, the Holy Father, Paul VI, intervened for my release because I was so sick. I had lost 35 kilos and I was about to die, because I had been on a hunger strike for 40 days. So the Pope intervened and finally obtained my release, but the release was on this condition—I had to leave Palestine, and I was [not] to return, not only to Palestine, but to all the Arab countries. So I am living in exile, separated not only from Palestine, my diocese, but also from all Arab countries. Three years ago, my mother died—died sick—because she cried a lot and she became sick. This was in Lebanon. She broke her leg, and for 3 years she was constrained to live in a corner, sick, without movement. And when she died, I could not go to the funeral.

So I am living in exile, and exile means nostalgia. Nostalgia means memory, and memory means suffering. And finally death is a separation. Death is a separation for these things which are dear such as families, children, friends.

[Question] But officially you're still the Catholic bishop of Jerusalem?

[Answer] Yes, I am still the archbishop of Jerusalem. I have in Jerusalem a bishop who is there for as long as I am in exile. When I can return, I am always the archbishop of Jerusalem.

[Question] What led to your imprisonment in Jerusalem?

[Answer] They said that I was carrying weapons for the PLO.

[Question] The Israeli authorities said this?

[Answer] Yes. And I have always denied this accusation, and that is why I didn't participate in my trial; I attended the tribunal, but I never participated in the proceedings.

As pastor I am responsible for the Palestinian people, and on the day of my consecration as bishop they put this ring on my finger. This is the same ring that coupled put on the finger on the day of their marriage. This seals my marriage to the Church of Jerusalem. So as long as the Church is my husband, all the Palestinians are my children, so it is my duty to defend them.

Every human being is my brother. Whatever he is, whatever his language, color, religion, he is my brother.

As an example: When the Americans—and you know Americans and Israelis are very close—when they were in difficulty about the hostages in Iran, when they know absolutely nothing about them, whether they were alive, in good health, or no, for the first time on television I celebrated mass for the hostages for 3 hours. And I gave each of them the opportunity to address a message to his family—first at Christmas, the second time as Easter, the third time on the first anniversary of this event.

Then, when there was this rescue expedition, when the Americans wanted to liberate these hostages through a military intervention. Instead of liberating the hostages they left behind 10 bodies of soldiers. The American people were furious, and the president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, wanted to recover these bodies. The answer of Khomeini was, "For me all the dead and the hostages are the same. They will leave Iran together."

Americans then appealed to the Vatican, and I was sent to Iran. I went to Iran, I met Khomeini, I had a discussion with him, and finally I obtained these 10 bodies. I put them on an aircraft, I accompanied them to Lausanne in Switzerland, and I delivered them to the Red Cross and to the foreign minister of Switzerland. Later, when the released hostages invited me to America, America refused me a visa.

[Question] It's been a long struggle

[Answer] Yes, yes. During these 40 years we—Israelians and Palestinians—we have suffered a lot. But another conviction also: when the suffering is too much, it leads to hopelessness and to violence. And because I condemn terrorism and violence, I want to put an end to this suffering of my poor people.

So I am attending to this humanitarian problem, not because I am an anti-Semite—as an Arab, I am a Semite—and surely not by racism, because as I told you, everybody is my brother.

[Question] Have you had a chance to meet with the Catholic bishops of the Philippines?

[Answer] Yes, I met with Cardinal Ricardo Vidal and the bishops, and I spoke with them about this tragedy, and then about the situation of the church of Jerusalem. This is another problem [sighs]. Because unfortunately our believers are going away, leaving Jerusalem for good.

[Question] Because of harassment?

[Answer] Because of discrimination. Because in Israel there are three groups of citizens, three categories. The first one are Jews coming from Europe. Second category, the Jews coming from the Arab world—Morocco, Algeria, Syria, etc. The third one are the Arabs. They have all the obligations but not the rights. So Christians are leaving, and today all the Christians of all communities—I am not speaking only of Catholics, but of all the Christians in all Palestine—there are only 80,000 Christians now. There were half a million before.

[Question] One last question before you go. Do you consider your visit here a success? Have you succeeded in conveying your message to the government and people of the Philippines?

[Answer] Look, yesterday, I had this meeting with Yan. He was really wonderful, as a person, and the meeting was wonderful and useful. Then yesterday I met with non-Catholic communities. And today I met with Cardinal Vidal and the general secretary of the episcopal conference and other bishops, and I discussed with them the spiritual situation and the human situation in Palestine. I hope, with the help of God, that with time we will succeed in doing something for this suffering people, the Palestinians.

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Prasong Sunsiri Background Role for Prem, Manipulation of Parliament
42070044b Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai
4 Oct 87 pp 8, 9

[Unattributed report: "The Power Behind Prem"]

[Excerpts] The fact that major changes were made in the lists submitted by the various branches of service in the middle of September does not seem to have surprised the "Ban Sisao staff." But those who watch the security situation seem to have been caught off guard. They are surprised by what Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, has done.

In order to arrive at a decision on the fate of the two assistant RTA CINCs, that is, Big Sua and Big George, Gen Prem had to tear up the regulations that were constricting him.

"He considered this matter very carefully, because he had to make the right decision. He considered this like a staff officer would. That is, he formulated various assumptions about what would happen if Big Sua were promoted, what effects this would have, and would he be able to solve the problems. He did this for each of the men under consideration, including Big George and Chief of Staff Wanchai. The only thing I would like to add is that the person selected is definitely the right choice," said a news source from the Ban Sisao staff to MATICHON about how this decision was made.

He was able to guarantee that the right choice was made because of the excellent "data and intelligence" obtained by Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, the secretary general of the prime minister.

It probably isn't necessary to review the intelligence skills of the former secretary general of the National Security Council [NSC]. Police Cpt Surat Osathanukhro, the former minister of commerce, Mr Thaloeng Thamrongnawala-wat, the former under secretary of agriculture, and Mr Pramut Sutabut, the former director of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand, represent just a few of the "political results" that he has scored since he became Prem's "right hand man" after the formation of the Prem 5 government.

The data and intelligence results scored by the head of the Ban Sisao staff have generated unusually "bright sparks" on the military front. For this reason, the statement made by Ban Sisao staff members, who said that "Gen Prem will probably remain in office another 7 years," should not be taken too lightly.

"Another 7 years for Prime Minister Prem" is supported by the intelligence structure. This structure is controlled and carefully monitored by Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri.

First, even though Squadron Leader Prasong is no longer the secretary general of the NSC, Mr Suwit Sutthanakun, the present secretary general of the NSC and a former subordinate of Sqd Ldr Prasong, is still feeding data to Sqd Ldr Prasong Sunsiri.

Second, the National Intelligence Office, which is headed by Mr Piya Chakkaphak and which gathers huge amounts of raw data nationwide, sends some of the data to the NSC for analysis. This information is then provided to Sqd Ldr Prasong. Mr Piya Chakkaphak definitely sends data and intelligence to Sqd Ldr Prasong on a regular basis.

Third, the prime minister's intelligence team headed by Sqd Ldr Prasong also includes Police Lt Gen Ophat Rattanasin, the assistant director-general of the Police Department for special affairs, whom few thought would ever be appointed to this position. Police Lt Gen Ophat works at the Police Department during the day. But in the evening, he works with the intelligence team at the Government House. He grew up in the intelligence field as commander of the Special Branch Police.

Fourth, there is the National Operations Center, a data and intelligence collection center that functions as the direct intelligence unit of the prime minister. This unit, recognized by law, has quietly built up its position and now occupies two floors of the building formerly used by the Bureau of the Budget. This huge intelligence unit collects data and carries out its tasks seriously under the direction of Sqd Ldr Prasong Sunsiri.

In short, with respect to data on political security, the NSC sifts through the raw data provided by the National Intelligence Office. As for data on border security and foreign affairs, the data are provided by the National Intelligence Office. Data on economic matters are received from the Special Branch Police (and the Suppression Division), and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board headed by Mr Sanoh Unakun. As for social security, the National Operations Center secretly plays a major role, particularly in solving the immediate problems and ending protest demonstrations or riots. With respect to military security, the appointment of Gen Atthaya Phaeophalachon, the deputy under secretary of defense, as director of the National Intelligence Office beginning in October will increase control over intelligence affairs.

There are also the various investigations, most of which focus on corruption among political officials, including ministers and bureaucrats assigned to the ministries, carried on by the Committee to Coordinate Bureaucratic Activities Based on Government Policy. This committee is headed by Sqd Ldr Prasong Sunsiri. This committee collects information on the activities of regular government officials.

Besides this, it is Sqd Ldr Prasong Sunsiri who fills the political positions in the Office of the Prime Minister, which are given to pro-government MPs who have not been appointed to other political positions. There are more than 50 such positions, officially called "attached to the Office of the Secretary General of the Prime Minister." The number of people appointed from each party is supposed to be based on the number of MPs in each party. But usually, Sqd Ldr Prasong appoints MPs from the Thai Nation Party, which is growing stronger and which is expected to do quite well in the next election. What is clear is that Mr Piya Angkinan, a former MP who lost the election in Phetburi, has held one of these positions for several months now.

The defeat of the no-confidence motion during the first session of parliament was the work of Sqd Ldr Prasong. MPs appointed to these "bed pan" positions lobbied successfully for the defeat of this dangerous motion. Even though it was a very close call, this was a behind-the-scenes triumph for the intelligence staff at the Government House.

Thus, behind all the decisions made by the Prem 5 government is the wealth of security data sent to Gen Prem Tinsulanon through Sqd Ldr Prasong Sunsiri. Even though the statement "another 7 years" made by the Ban Sisao staff does not mean that Gen Prem's position is secure for that long, it does show his toughness in solving problems or making resolute decisions.

"Gen Prem's path is still free from obstructions. There will be no cabinet reshuffle or dissolution of parliament after he returns from abroad," said the Ban Sisao staff.

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Columnist Cites Sitthi Sawetsila Lack of Independence

42070048c Bangkok *BAN MUANG* in Thai
12 Oct 87 p 5

[Ta Mo Lo column: "The Unloved Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is implementing its international political policy like the air force would. This is because the minister is a former air chief marshal in the air force.

During the period that Mr Thanat Khoman was the minister of foreign affairs, ASEAN reporters criticized Thailand for "following the ass of the United States." Now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is being criticized for "following the ass of China." But I think that we are "following the ass of Japan," too.

In the near future, there will be good news from Gen Prem. Because he and Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila are planning a visit to the Soviet Union. Thailand may

end up following the ass of the Soviet Union, too. Our foreign policy is one of following the asses of the United States, China, Japan, and the Soviet Union. That's a very cute image.

Today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is having problems with its policy. The World Fellowship of Buddhists, an international organization whose permanent headquarters is located in Thailand, plans to hold ceremonies to celebrate the king's 60th birthday.

The ceremonies for the winners of the Magsaysay Award are scheduled for the period 12-14 November, which is around the same time as the ceremonies planned by the World Fellowship of Buddhists. But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has refused to allow the Dalai Lama to attend these ceremonies, saying that it would not be proper to allow the Dalai Lama to enter Thailand for several reasons. "First, there is the problem of protecting him. That would place a heavy burden on the Thai government. Second, although the Dalai Lama is a religious leader, he is also involved in political activities. It is feared that this would provoke a reaction from the opposition. Thailand's stated policy is not to allow people to use Thailand as an arena in their struggle against another country. Similar things have happened before. The embassies of certain countries used Thailand to attack other countries. Our policy is aimed at ensuring our own interests. We will not place ourselves under the orders of another country."

In Tibet, the people are opposing China and demanding self-rule. Reports state that many people have been killed. Calm has been restored, but the matter has not been resolved. Some think that this is the Dalai Lama's plan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is afraid that he will stir up trouble in Thailand, which would affect our friendly relations with China. Thus, it has refused to allow him into the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs underestimates its own human "intelligence." This is something about which we can reach an understanding.

Refusing to allow the Dalai Lama to enter the country out of fear that this will displease China is unreasonable. Even though the Dalai Lama has lost power, he is not isolated. India still supports him, and many countries praise him as a fighter. Buddhists throughout the world admire him. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coming to resemble an "unloved" air force officer.

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Official Assesses Nation's Ability To Borrow

42070048c Bangkok *BAN MUANG* in Thai
7 Oct 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] At the Government House at 1500 hours on 6 October, Mr Montri Chenwitthayakan, the deputy spokesman of the Office of the Prime Minister, announced the results of the cabinet meeting. He said

that the Ministry of Finance informed the cabinet about the results of an analysis of Thailand's credit rating. The Ministry of Finance had Japan Bond Research Institute (JBRI) do a credit rating on Thailand. The initial, or indicative rating given to Thailand is "lower range e. double A rating." Another way of saying this is that Thailand's rating is AA- (double A minus), which is an acceptable rating. Thailand was given a preliminary credit rating of AA- (double A minus), which is the credit rating for long-term yen bonds issued by Thailand. As for why Thailand received this credit rating, there were important factors favorable to the country and several factors that were unfavorable. The Ministry of Finance considered the matter and issued the following explanation:

1. An AA- rating means that the country's credit rating, or credit worthiness, is very high. Other countries with this rating include Portugal and Hungary.

2. From the standpoint of being able to issue general yen bonds on Japanese financial markets, those who have an AA rating, regardless of whether it is an AA+, AA, or AA-rating, can issue yen bonds given certain conditions. That is, the minimum amount must be 30 billion yen for 15-year loans. Besides this, with a credit rating of AA-, the Ministry of Finance and the state enterprises that take loans guaranteed by the Ministry of Finance can issue Euro-yen bonds on European financial markets without restrictions regarding the amount of money and with loan periods longer than 5 years.

3. Thailand's strengths and weaknesses as pointed out by JBRI seem to be on target. With respect to the strengths, the government must implement policies to maintain these strengths. In particular, it must take steps to keep our external debt low and prevent it from becoming too great a burden on our national budget. As for the weaknesses, the ministries concerned must quickly take steps to overcome these weaknesses. If we can solve the problems in accord with the targets set, we will be able to maintain or even improve our credit rating. Mr Montri said that the cabinet stressed that even though Thailand's credit rating is good, we must be cautious in borrowing money, because this could become a burden on the budget.

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Businessmen, Ex-General Interested in SRV Venture
47070046c Bangkok NAEON in Thai
7 Oct 87 pp 7, 14

[Unattributed report: "Six Groups Interested in Investing in Vietnam; Former General, Student Leader Are Serving as Spearheads"]

[Text] Six groups of Thai businessmen are interested in carrying on fishing and forestry activities and mining precious stones in Vietnam. Each group is using the same method. They are using a former student leader, general, and diplomat as spearheads in contacting Vietnam.

A news source in business circles told NAEON that some Thai groups are very interested in doing business in Vietnam. From a survey, it was learned that there are now at least six groups that are interested in doing business there. Each group is trying to use someone who has dealt with Vietnamese officials in the past or someone who has sufficient social standing to deal with Vietnamese officials. They want these people to serve as the spearhead in contacting and negotiating with the Vietnamese.

One group is using Mr Phiraphon Triyakasem, a former student leader, as its spearhead. Members of this group include Mr Ari Santipong, an important businessman and the owner of the Chinese-language newspaper SING SIAN YUE PAO, and Police Lt Gen Niyom Kanchanawat, the commissioner of the Police Provincial 2.

The second group is using Gen Chuthai Saengthawip, the former inspector general, as its spearhead. Mr Chia Kakphon, a Social Action Party MP from Mahachai, is a member of this group.

The third group is using Mr Wong Phonnikon, the former minister of foreign affairs, as its spearhead. Mr Bunsong Sunthonrohit, the owner of a fishing fleet in Mahachai, is a member of this group.

The fourth group is using Mr Pracha Khunakasem, a former ambassador, as its spearhead.

"Groups five and six are using former diplomats as their spearheads. But the identities of those in this group aren't known. All that is known is that those in group 5 are senior people in Bangkok Metropolitan."

The news source also said that the groups that want to do business in Vietnam are interested in carrying on fishing activities in the territorial waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, engaging in logging operations, and mining precious stones in the southern region of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The groups that have made the greatest progress in contacting Vietnamese officials are the groups of Gen Chuthai and Mr Phiraphon. However, so far, Vietnamese officials have only agreed to consider the proposals made by these businessmen. They are not ready to discuss the details. They have to wait for the government to promulgate a foreign trade and investment law.

"All six groups are trying to persuade other businessmen to join them, claiming that there won't be any political problems. The Thai government has said that it has no policy on doing business with Vietnam, but that it will not stop those in the private sector from doing so. But many of the businessmen approached about this are afraid that if there is a change of government or cabinet reshuffle and this policy changes, they will encounter problems in the future."

11943

Poll: Majority Finds Press Credible; Little Foreign Threat

42070044a Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai
4 Oct 87 pp 11-13

[Unattributed report: "Poll on Press Freedom and Individual Freedom"]

[Text] Parliament is now considering a new press act. There is a difference of opinion on this between the senators and the MPs and representatives of the press. Even though the Joint Subcommittee considered the draft Press Act based on the revised draft act submitted by the Senate, this draft act must still be approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Social and Political Studies Section of the Policy and Economics Forecasting Unit, Social Research Institute, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, polled people in Bangkok Metropolitan on this draft act. Because in a democratic system, the newspapers serve as a mirror to reflect the opinions of the people. This poll gave people a chance to give their opinions on this conflict. This poll also asked people their opinion about various aspects of the newspapers in order to help Thai newspapers improve their work in the future.

The poll was limited to people in Bangkok Metropolitan. It was conducted during the period 11-20 September 1987. Questionnaires were sent to 530 people. Of these, 513, or 96.8 percent, were returned. The respondents were divided into six major categories: government officials and state enterprise employees, 23.4 percent; businessmen and merchants, 17.5 percent; self-employed individuals, 16 percent; students, 6.6 percent; teachers, 9.6 percent; and laborers and employees at private companies, 34.9 percent.

People's Image of the Press

The poll found that the Thai people accept the role of the press and feel that the quality of the press is good. A total of 51.3 percent of the respondents felt that Thai newspapers are of good quality, 40.2 percent felt that they are of average quality, and 8.5 percent felt that they are of poor quality. When asked if they think that the newspapers are fair in their presentation of the news, 31.5 percent said the newspapers do a good job; 50.5 percent said that they are average. As for whether the newspapers present the news in a responsible manner, 25.4 percent said that they do a good job; 54.6 percent rated them as average.

As for the capabilities of Thai newspapers today, 94.3 percent said that the newspapers are now presenting the news in a more timely manner; 83.1 percent said that the newspapers have improved their news-gathering capabilities; 71 percent said that the newspapers are presenting

a greater variety of news items; 59.3 percent said that news analysis has improved; and 37.1 percent said that the newspapers have improved their accuracy in presenting the news.

As for the role of the newspapers, 68.3 percent said that the newspapers are playing a good role in providing news and information to the people; 32.9 percent said that they are doing a good job in pointing out the economic and social problems; and 24.4 percent said that the newspapers are the voice of the majority of the people. As for shortcomings, 48.3 percent said that the newspapers are the tools of the influential groups, and 45.3 percent said that the newspapers exaggerate things. However, when asked to compare the role played by the press today as compared with in the past, 68.7 percent said that the press has improved its role. But there are still weaknesses. That is, 38.9 percent felt that there are still as many shortcomings as before, and 36.9 percent felt that the number has increased. This is something that the newspapers should consider and try to improve.

The respondents felt that the quality of the various newspaper sections has improved. The section that has improved the most is the business section, 77.2 percent. This was followed by sports, 69.2 percent, and education, 68.9 percent. The most popular sections are the front page followed by the business and sports sections in that order.

Views on Press Freedom in Thailand

The majority of the respondents, 77.9 percent, felt that Thai newspapers should have freedom based on ideals. That is, they should be permitted to present the news based on the facts. Only 16.9 percent disagreed. This result may stem from the fact that democracy in Thailand has developed greatly. And the people feel that the newspapers have made improvements in terms of role, quality, and conduct. A total of 81.6 percent of the respondents agreed that the newspapers should play a role in examining and commenting on the work of the government. An interesting point is that a large percentage of the respondents did not feel that the Thai press is carrying out this task. That is, 32.3 percent felt that the press is carrying out this task well, 36.3 percent gave the press an average rating, and 31.4 percent said that the press does little in the way of examining and commenting on the activities of the government. Comparing the mass media, 65.1 percent of the respondents felt that the newspapers have the most independence in presenting the news. The figures for television and radio were 18.5 and 16.4 percent respectively. This shows that the Thai people want the newspapers to have greater freedom in examining and commenting on the government's activities.

If a conflict arose between the government and a newspaper because of press criticism, with the government claiming that the newspaper was exceeding its role or endangering security and the newspaper claiming that

this was one of its basic rights. 53.7 percent of the respondents said that they wanted the newspaper to continue criticizing the government; 33.3 percent said that a neutral organization, such as the courts, should decide the issue; and 6.9 percent said that the government should have the power to close a newspaper. Also, most respondents were in favor of repealing the old press law promulgated during the dictatorial period, that is, Revolutionary Council Order 42, and promulgating a more suitable press law. A total of 49.5 percent said that Revolutionary Council Order 42 should be repealed and that a new law that is in accord with the present situation should be promulgated in its place. Only 11.1 percent felt that the present law should be kept, and 21.9 percent did not voice an opinion. As for the cases in which the government used its powers under Order 42 to close KHAO SOT and issue a warning to SIAM RAT, 53.4 percent of the respondents felt that this was improper; only 20.3 percent felt that this was proper.

As for the conflict within the joint subcommittee between the MPs and senators, with the senators wanting to include a security article in the Press Act, only 7.4 percent of the respondents agreed with the senators. Another 34 percent agreed with the MPs and representatives of the press, saying that this would duplicate existing laws. A rather high percentage, 58.6 percent, did not voice an opinion.

Approximately 51 percent of the respondents felt that the conduct of the newspapers is average. A total of 61.8 percent of the respondents favored having a Newspaper Council so that the newspapers can control their conduct themselves; 14.9 percent disagreed and 23.3 percent did not voice an opinion.

As for newspapers increasing their prices, most respondents were opposed to this. That is, 72 percent did not think that this was necessary. A total of 43.3 percent said that if the newspapers raised their price to 5 baht, they would not buy as many newspapers; 35.5 percent said that they would continue to buy as many newspapers as they do now. Only 19.5 percent said that they would stop buying newspapers altogether. A number of the respondents suggested that the newspapers raise their price only 1 baht, that is, to 4 baht per copy.

National Security

During this poll on people's views on Thai newspapers and the new Press Act, some of the data on people's views on national security were not announced officially. Respondents were asked: In the past, Thailand had to deal with foreign aggression, which affected our national security. Do you think that this is still a danger? A total of 10.7 percent said that the danger has increased, 30.4 percent said that the danger is quite great, 17.5 percent said that the danger is about the same as before, 39.8 percent said that the danger has decreased, and 1.6

percent said that there is no longer any danger. From this, it can be seen that most of the respondents in Bangkok felt that the foreign threat has decreased.

Similarly, when asked about the communist threat to national security, only 4.4 percent of the respondents said that the communist threat has increased. Twelve percent said that the threat is quite great, 17.1 percent felt that it is about the same as before, 61.7 percent felt that the threat has decreased, and 4.8 percent felt that the communists no longer pose a threat.

Bangkokians Views on Television, Radio and Newspapers

1. Most credible: television 78.0 percent; radio 7.3 percent; newspapers, 14.7 percent.
2. Timeliness in presenting the news: television, 49.6 percent; radio 32.6 percent; newspapers, 17.8 percent.
3. Independence in presenting the news: television, 18.5 percent; radio 16.4 percent; newspapers, 65.1 percent.
4. In-depth coverage of the news: television, 41.6 percent; radio 1.3 percent; newspapers, 57.1 percent.
5. Variety of news: television 30.3 percent; radio, 6.3 percent; newspapers, 63.4 percent.

Bangkokians Views on Newspapers Playing a Role in Investigating and Criticizing the Activities of the Government and of Various State Units

Agree: 81.6 percent. Disagree: 8.2 percent. No opinion: 10.2 percent

Bangkokians Views on Revolutionary Council Order 42

1. Should continue to use Order 42: 11.1 percent.
2. Should repeal Order 42: 17.5 percent.
3. Should repeal Order 42 and draft a new law suited to present situation: 49.5 percent.
4. No opinion: 21.9 percent.

Government Debt Picture Changes After Refinancing

42070047a Bangkok NAEONAI in Thai
6 Oct 87 pp 7, 14

[Unattributed report: "Government Debt Skyrockets After Refinancing; Finance Will Bear Burden Instead of State Enterprises; Gain Control of Things Before Making Changes"]

[Text] A news report from the Ministry of Finance has informed NAEONAI that as of the end of April 1987, government debt totaled 289,607.8 million baht, or approximately \$11,303.973 million. Of this, 110,055.3 million baht, or \$4,295.67 million, was accounted for by direct government loans. Loan guarantees totaled 179,552.5 million baht, or approximately \$7,008.29 million.

Of the total debt, \$2,181.58 million was borrowed from the World Bank, \$2,199.47 million was borrowed from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), \$792.13 million was borrowed from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and \$6,130.79 million was borrowed from private financial institutions abroad.

The news report stated that the state enterprises began cutting back on taking foreign loans at the beginning of the period of the Fifth Economic and Social Development Plan. At that time, it was felt that the economy was faltering and that the state enterprises should not borrow money abroad without suitable programs. During the period of the Sixth Economic and Social Development Plan, the state enterprises will continue to adhere to the policy of reducing foreign borrowing and rely more on domestic sources of investment capital.

Most state enterprises have begun cutting back on their investment projects. Some of the enterprises have not initiated any new projects. Those that have been proposed are old projects that they want to complete based on the plans stipulated. The large state enterprises that have borrowed heavily from abroad include Thai Airways International, whose debts account for approximately one-fourth of the foreign debt, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for \$500 million owed by the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PAT], because that was the period in which the PAT was being established.

The proportion of the foreign debt created by the government versus the state enterprises has changed. Today, the government owes more than the state enterprises. This is due to the refinancing of the loans, including money borrowed by the government directly and money borrowed by the state enterprises from sources of investment capital. This will put the debt burden on the Ministry of Finance. But this policy will also enable the Ministry of Finance to control state enterprise debt creation more easily than before.

Considering the operations of the state enterprises, as compared with the debt-servicing burden, some state enterprises are not earning sufficient revenues to service their debts. The earnings of Thai Airways International, for example, are very low as compared with the amount of money borrowed by the company to purchase and hire purchase aircraft. The company plans to purchase or hire purchase at least two aircraft a year. The National Economic and Social Development Board will be the one that considers this based on what it feels is necessary and appropriate. The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand must find ways to increase earnings. One state enterprise that has high earnings as compared with its debt is the Communications Authority of Thailand. This is because during the past 2-3 years, the Communications Authority of Thailand has curtailed investment projects.

When state enterprises want to borrow money from abroad, consideration must be given to the earnings that this is expected to generate. Will each enterprise be able to hit the targets set? In view of the government's policy of allowing the private sector to become involved in the activities of certain state enterprises, it must be ensured that those state enterprises receive their proper share of the revenues. Steps must be taken to ensure that the lion's share doesn't go to others while the enterprises continue to lose money or see their earnings decline.

11943

Columnist Sees Opposition Parties in Decline

42070048d Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai
27 Sep 87 p 5

[Ta Mo Lo column: "Opposition Parties Are in Trouble"]

[Excerpts] I think that the opposition is growing very tense because of the way that the government faction has managed to handcuff it. In particular, Mr Uthai Phimchaichon, the leader of the Progressive Party, once said that if he lost the election, he would disband his party and bow to Prem. He would admit defeat. Fortunately, he withdrew in time. He quit in time, because there was a strong omen of defeat.

The government is "crucifying" the opposition. Take the appointment of the four drivers of party leaders as spokesmen for the opposition parties in parliament. They must confront the government's spokesmen, who were appointed on the direct order of Gen Prem. Mr Trairong Suwannakhiri is the chief spokesman. I don't think that it is appropriate to appoint chauffeurs as political spokesmen. I think that this shows disrespect to the people. Because political work concerns the people. This work must be carried out in a respectful and knowledgeable manner.

I think that they are looking down on the people. I know that the opposition intended to ridicule the government. But the government did not lose anything. It was the one that gained. Because they are on different levels with respect to public relations work. The government may be at a disadvantage as far as strength is concerned, but public relations does not require strength. And if they really want to use strength, it is the opposition that is at a disadvantage. Believe me!

I feel sorry for the opposition, which has been surrounded so closely that it can hardly move. It's easy to pick a fight. But you have to be clever and use your brain. If you go too far, you end up hurting yourself. It's better to relax a moment. If you do this often, things will improve.

Rumors say that the opposition will try to hold another no-confidence debate. I think that this will be futile. The opposition is now less united than before. As a result of the by-elections, they lost two votes. The Community Action Party has lost five votes, because the fate of these rebel party members is still pending. The United Democracy Party has only one opposition MP left, the party leader. Today, the only opposition parties that can be counted on not to change are the Progressive, Prachakon Thai, Ruam Thai, and Muang Chon parties.

Regardless of what they do, they simply don't have enough votes to open a no-confidence debate. And if they hold a debate just so that they can talk awhile, I think that it would be better not to hold the debate. It's too late. But I still want the opposition to submit a motion to open a no-confidence debate. I would like to see them do this even though I know that they have no chance of succeeding. This would show us which parties really are opposition parties. This would be of help in the next election, which I don't think is too far away. This would make it easier to make the right decision.

11943

Columnist: Lese Majeste, Monarchy Used as Tool
42070047d Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 28 Sep 87 p 5

[Slap in the Face column by Pleo Singoen: "The Highest Institution"]

[Text] There are probably many people who are just as upset as I am about the fact that some people have shown great disrespect to the nation's highest institution. They have shown a lack of respect through both their actions and words. Moreover, this has happened in government circles. Such actions greatly offend the people.

The time has come to talk about this in greater detail. I think that some people and some groups are using loyalty to the monarchy as a tool to destroy others. In expressing loyalty and a desire to protect our beloved institution, people should be circumspect. They should have pure intentions and a sense of responsibility. Otherwise, the

monarchy, which serves to unify the people of the country, will be used by evil people for their own purposes. This will shake people's faith.

Government officials and state enterprise officials should set a good example. But instead, some of them have acted in a despicable manner. The cases in the Police Aviation Division and the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand all involve something deeper.

I think that the government should implement special measures for cases in which someone charges a particular person or group with committing lese majeste. Those making such charges should be required to produce eyewitnesses or show clear evidence. Those who make such charges must not be allowed to give out information about this before officials have examined the evidence. The motives of those who spread such rumors should be suspect, and they should be investigated to determine exactly what their motives are. Those who spread such rumors without having clear evidence should be punished. Only after there is clear evidence of lese majeste should the matter be disclosed to the public.

The reason why I am writing this is that I don't want people to pay homage to the monarchy "fearfully". I don't want to see the great goodness of the monarchy used as a tool to "punish" others.

I want people to love the monarchy, which has done so much for the masses. I want people to be concerned about the monarchy, see its goodness, and take great delight in the monarchy. I don't want to see people using the monarchy to smear others. A very simple reason is that once reports about someone committing lese majeste appear, people in general start talking about this and asking each other what the person supposedly said and did. Some of the things said are correct, but others are wrong. Thus, our beloved monarchy becomes a subject of gossip, which is improper. People with evil intentions can easily use the monarchy as a tool to destroy others. I don't know what officials think about this.

People can engage in activities underground or openly. They can frame others and seek political gain and so on. But they must not use our beloved monarchy as a tool.

11943

Editorial Fears for Monarchy Image After Lese Majeste Cases
42070042d Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Sep 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Interests That Are at Odds"]

[Text] There have recently been many reports about cases of lese majeste. Some have observed that these serious cases have been brought up in a very unusual manner. As for the actions that have been criticized,

people have been doing such things for a long time. But it was not until those who have been criticized were on their way up that charges were leveled against them.

This is evident in the latest case involving charges of lese majeste. People have charged that at a seminar, Dr Bunsoem Wisakun took liberties in his remarks about the monarchy. That charge was made the day after Dr Bunsoem was appointed director of the Mass Communications Organization.

Certainly, lese majeste is a very serious crime. But before the accused has a chance to prove his innocence, his reputation and that of his family will have suffered serious damage. If someone charges another person with lese majeste in order to destroy that person, they can almost reach their objective just by making the charge.

We are very concerned about what is happening in Thai society today. While the power of the monarchy is very great, the mercy of the king toward his subjects is just as great. Today, the king and senior members of the royal family are very close to the people and are revered by the people. This is something that is very rare in history. Thus, citing the royal power has both positive and negative effects on the royal grace.

We don't know whether Dr Bunsoem is guilty or not. This case must be investigated, and his guilt or innocence must be decided based on the evidence. But we do have one observation to make. During the period that this case is under investigation, there will have to be a change of directors at the Mass Communications Organization. This organization already has many problems with internal administration. If its director faces charges of lese majeste, the problems in the organization may never be solved.

We don't know who else will be charged with committing lese majeste. But the Thai people, who are not stupid and who are more aware of what is going on than they used to be, know what these people are doing and why. This is very worrisome because of the indirect effect that this could have on the people's loyalty to the monarchy.

11943

Columnist Views Student Movement Problems, Rightist Violence
42070042b Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 6 Oct 87 p 3

[Analysis column by Sucha Chulaphet: "The Thai Student Movement, 11 Years of Trying To Recover"]

[Excerpts] On 6 October 1976, violent events took place in the heart of the capital. Right-wing powerholders used force to suppress the student movement in a savage and bloody manner. Thus, 6 October 1976 was a bloody day in the history of political struggle. The events that took place that day are still talked about today. On that day, the political role of Thai students, who had played a

major role in the country, came to an end. Some of the students fled into the jungle and joined forces with the Communist Party of Thailand.

Today's students have not been able to turn themselves into an important political force like those in the past. This is clear from student activities concerning various problems. In most cases, the students have not succeeded in gaining the sympathy and cooperation of the people. Besides this, even cooperation among students is limited.

Because of the lack of cooperation among students and the lack of support from the people, student demands concerning various problems have been ignored by the government. Even in cases in which the students have managed to stage mass protests, they have usually failed to achieve anything in bargaining with the government. The reason is that the government views the student movement as a patient who has just recovered from an illness and who is just now learning how to walk again. I can sympathize with the students. Because after a decade of trying to recover its former political role, the government still views the student movement like this.

In the present political situation, the students must admit that the various state power groups have made major adjustments. Every faction has changed its attitude. The result has been to make things look more democratic. The government, political parties, and military all claim that they are trying to protect the interests of the people.

The activities of these organizations and their public disclosure of their intentions has closed a huge political gap for the student forces. But in reality, these institutions may not take responsibility for the problems of the people and nation that are outside their field of vision, or they may not see the importance of the problems. Thus students still have a chance to raise issues that have been ignored. But because of manpower limitations, the only role that they can play is to discuss the political, economic, and social problems in a scholarly manner.

Staging protest demonstrations and using force should be left to the right-wing mass organizations. That is out of date now. Today, students should focus on informing society. That is a more proper role for them.

11943

Deputy Commerce Minister Profiled, Comments on Responsibilities
42070047c Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 27 Sep 87 p 3

[Interview with Chuchip Hansawat, the deputy minister of commerce, by Kowit Sitalayan at the THAI RAT office; date not specified]

[Excerpts] Minister Chuchip Hansawat has been an MP from Pathum Thani for five consecutive terms. As minister, he is responsible for the state's insurance activities. He met with us at our THAI RAT office.

[Answer] I was born in Bang Prok Subdistrict, Pathum Thani Province. After completing Grade 4 at the Wat Hong Pathumawat School, I transferred to the Pathum Wilai School, where I completed lower secondary school. I attended upper secondary school at Amnuaisin School. After that, I earned my bachelor's degree in the Philippines. I then earned my master's degree from Long Beach State University in California. Most of those who attended school in the United States with me are now teaching at Ramkhamhaeng University. When I returned, I engaged in private business activities. There was much political turmoil at that time. That was in 1973. In 1975 I ran for election to the House. Initially, I planned to engage only in municipal politics. But friends convinced me to run for national office. And so I did.

[Question] To which party did you belong?

[Answer] No party wanted me. They thought I was too young. And so I joined the Santichon Party. I applied for membership in several parties, but they weren't interested. Party MPs included Mr Prida Phattanathabut, Mr Chewong Wongyai, Mr Praphan Amphut, and Mr Anan Chaisaeng. Mr Prida and Mr Anan were appointed ministers. I was attached to the Office of the Prime Minister.

[Question] When did you join the Thai Nation Party?

[Answer] The Santichon Party was disbanded around the beginning of 1976. That was when I joined the Thai Nation Party [TNP]. At that time, several parties asked me to join them, but I chose the TNP. I was elected again. But before we had a chance to do anything, there was a reform. In 1979 I ran as a TNP candidate and was again elected. This time I was given a political position, that is, I was appointed secretary to the minister of science. I served as secretary to both Mr Thinkon and Dr Anuwat. I won election again in 1983. But the TNP was an opposition party and so I did not have any political duties besides my duties as an MP. In 1986, because of the population increase in Pathum Thani Province, the province was allowed to have another MP. We discussed this, and it was decided that I and my brother and sister, Chuchat and Wani, would run as a team. All three of us were elected.

[Question] What are your responsibilities at the Ministry of Commerce?

[Answer] I supervise two departments. When Mr Surat was minister, I was made responsible for the Department of Business Economics and the Insurance Office. Actually, the Department of Business Economics is the ministry's main department. It is like a technical department or the heart of the ministry. During the time that I supervised this department, Mr Phachon Isarasanao, the present under secretary of commerce, was the director-general. I formulated a course of action. I wanted the department to serve as a source of trade data. We sold data to merchants, who came and used our computers.

But the data made available to merchants did not concern national security. After the appointment of the present minister, I was put in charge of supervising the Department of Commercial Registration and the Insurance Office.

[Question] What are the duties of the Department of Commercial Registration?

[Answer] The duties of this department are very broad. This department is involved in oil trade matters, including the retail sale of oil and natural gas. The department frequently has to handle problems concerning trademarks and patents stemming from misunderstandings. Take registering a new company, for example. Seven people with 5 baht each for a total of 35 baht can register to establish a company. I am now trying to have civil and commercial legislation enacted that will require companies that want to register to have a more realistic amount of investment capital. For example, some companies register with just 100,000 baht. But they register to engage in a wide variety of activities, such as building warships, constructing smelting plants, and so on. This is not right. They can't possibly engage in such major ventures with such a small amount of investment capital. This leads to problems. For example, some try to trick people into buying shares or they establish share funds. Or they borrow heavily.

[Question] Why are you still a bachelor?

[Answer] I haven't had a chance to meet women. Those to whom I was once attracted are all married now. They couldn't wait. I felt that I was fortunate to have a chance to study abroad and gain more education than others in my family. Thus, when I returned, I felt that I had to do something to repay them. Today, all my brothers and sisters are married. I am the only one still single. Actually, it would have been better if I had gotten married before becoming involved in politics. Now that I am involved in politics, problems arise all the time, and there is much fighting. My life is uncertain. I don't know if a woman would have the patience that I do. A politician's wife has to know two phrases, "all right" and "never mind." A politician does not have any time for himself. People come to see you all day. The villagers want to rely on us. But I think that a politician's wife might unintentionally ruin her husband's career. Suppose that someone comes to see him late in the evening and she chases the person away or is impolite to that person. The good name that we have spent years building could disappear in a single day. And being single is nice in other ways.

[Question] What are the greatest problems facing the people in Pathum Thani Province?

[Answer] Most problems concern people being driven from the land. In Pathum Thani Province, farmers own very little land. They just live there and work the land. But when land prices increase and the owners sell the

land, the farmers are forced to move. Thai like to live along the banks of the canals. Sometimes, this is irrigation land and so problems arise. Sometimes they are not treated fairly, and officials harass them. I have tried to work out compromises. The people here pay large sums in trade taxes. But after the money is sent to Bangkok, the chances of this money being used to benefit the people of Pathum Thani are very small. The people here pay more than 400 million in taxes, but only about 17 million is spent to help the people of Pathum Thani. Something must be done about this. We have to keep struggling to solve this problem.

11943

New Air Force, Navy Commanders Profiled
42070042a Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 27 Sep 87 p 8

[DAO SIAM Sunday Club column]

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the New RTAF CINC

Reports about this year's military reshuffle have been appearing for several months now. This has generated much interest concerning all three branches of service. In the army, Big Chiu remains the RTA CINC, because he has held this position only 1 year. The commanders of both the navy and air force have retired and so new commanders have had to be appointed. The transfers in the army are very interesting, because there was much speculation about who would be appointed to what position. The press was rife with speculation. But the appointments were made after commanders carefully considered who would do the best job.

The new RTAF CINC, Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari, had been the assistant RTAF CINC. He is 57 years old. He was born on 15 May 1934 in Korat. He is the youngest of the three children of Mr Kasem and Mrs Chiam Aphichari. He attended Assumption School. He entered the Air Force Academy as a member of Class 1, the same class as ACM Kaset Rotchananin and ACM Kan Phimantrip.

He attended the Flight Instructors School in the United States, the Air Command and Staff College in England, the Air War College, and the National Defense College. He served as a flight instructor at the Flight Training School; an operations officer with the 2d Squadron of the 1st Wing; the leader of the 13th Squadron, 1st Wing; the director of air operations, Directorate of Operations; the director of the Air Operations Center, Directorate of Air Operations Control; the deputy director and director of the Directorate of Operations; assistant air force chief of staff for operations; deputy air force chief of staff; and assistant RTAF CINC. Now he has been appointed RTAF CINC.

He is a senator. He was awarded the Order of the Crown of Thailand decoration. He makes decisions very quickly and likes things to be done quickly. He tends to make decisions more quickly than others, because flying an aircraft is not like driving a car. And he places great value on efficiency. Even though the air force is 72 years old, he is very concerned about developing the air force. Looking back at the Pathumwan Sports Club next to the Chulalongkorn Hospital, the aircraft used to carry mail has been developed into a jet aircraft. The Don Muang airfield has been upgraded to the point where it is equal to or even superior to that in neighboring countries. As for defending our air space, we are still concerned about Vietnam, because the Soviet Union supports Vietnam. Thus, we are developing our capabilities and have asked to purchase high-performance aircraft. It's true that these aircraft are very expensive. But people should remember that if another country should invade us, if our weapons are inferior and we don't have air parity, we won't survive.

He is married to Phochai Aphichari. They have one child, Thechit Aphichari. Even though his wife is much younger than he is, he made the right choice. Their personalities are quite similar and so their marriage is quite happy. In his free time, he likes to read. He is very fond of boxing and serves as the president of the Boxing Association.

As for the image of the RTAF CINC, people in general don't know very much about air force officers. This is very different from army officers, who work close to the people. The equipment and weapons used in the air force are different from those of the other branches of service. People don't know much about them, and they are very expensive. Thus, there needs to be more publicity about this. The public relations officials in the air force are just as talented as those in the army and navy. But air combat tends to be viewed as support combat. Actually, our air space must be defended 24 hours a day. With great respect for those in the air force, we would like to extend warm wishes to the new RTAF CINC and tell him that we are ready to help foster better understanding between the air force and the people so that people stop complaining about the high cost of aircraft. One response is that these are not inexpensive motorcycles. When you have expensive aircraft, you have to have highly skilled mechanics and pilots, too.

Admiral Praprat Krutsaschan, the New RTN CINC

Children all love sailors. The people are close to and understand those in the navy. This is because the navy developed from the army. They are soldiers at sea. Naval air units were formed later with the birth of aircraft carriers. Pilots had to be used for combat and logistics missions. Sailors have just as many stories to tell as soldiers. Most of the people along the coast are sailors. The uniforms worn by sailors, particularly their pants, are very different from the clothes worn by others. They always have strange stories to tell. They go to sea for long

periods. When they return, they are like people dying of thirst in a desert. They are eager to be with their families. But this is something that cannot be taken into consideration. Sailors sometimes have to fight on land and in the air as well as at sea. For example, there are the fierce marines. Those in the navy rarely become involved in political matters. Occasionally, they have felt slighted and have tried to seize power. One such instance was the the Mahattan Coup, which took place almost 40 years ago. During periods of political change, the navy has sometimes played a part, but it usually follows behind. Occasionally, it has led the way for the army. People are very interested in changes in the navy. They are very interested in who will become commander and wonder what will happen in the navy.

Admiral Praphat Krutsanaphan is 57 years old. He was born on 11 January 1930 in Banglamphu, Bangkok Metropolitan. He is the son of Police Lt Chan and Mrs Orasa Krutsanachan. He is a professional soldier who has strong ideals. He attended the Naval Officers College. Fellow classmates included Vice Admiral Kasem Meklo, Vice Admiral Winit Tapnan, Vice Admiral Sunthon Krathet, Vice Admiral Chet Thammarakkhit, and Vice Admiral Prasan Chuchinda.

He served as the captain of the Tong Pliu and the chief officer aboard the Pra Sac and Tha Chin. He attended the Naval Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, the Naval War College, and the Antisubmarine Warfare School in the United States. He served as the assistant naval attache in Manila; an aide to Admiral Thawin Rainanon; the chief of staff of the Antisubmarine Fleet; the secretary to the deputy minister of defense, whom he had once served as an aide; and the aide to the deputy minister of defense. He was promoted to rear admiral and transferred back to the Antisubmarine Fleet. Following that, he was appointed assistant navy chief of staff for intelligence and then assistant RTN CINC. This year, he was appointed RTN CINC.

He is a senator. He attended the National Defense College as a member of Class 27. He was once a member of the Legislative Council and the National Administrative Reform Council. Politically, he is regarded as a protege of a person with whom he once worked closely, Admiral Sanat Chaloyu. Admiral Krut Liwara is another person with whom he has worked closely. He has worked with Gen Prem Tinsulanon, too. He was awarded the Maha Wachira Mongkut Decoration.

He is not married. He is not really interested in women. After reading the biography of the new RTN CINC, many women may wonder why he, like Gen Prem, has remained single. No one seems to know the answer. He is polite and gentle like Gen Prem. I did not dare ask him why he has never married. I was afraid that this would upset people in the navy.

Our territorial waters are not limited just to coastal areas. The navy is also responsible for the Mekong River. As for the Moei River in Tak Province, which forms the border with Burma, the Border Patrol Police work hand in hand with people from the three branches of service and the police.

Sailors are very close to each other, because they have to eat and sleep in their ships and share the dangers of life at sea. Thus, those in the navy rarely get into conflicts with each other. They have great respect for seniority and for each other.

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**Air Force Commander's Religious Habits,
Personal Associates**

42070059 Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai
30 Sep-6 Oct 87 pp 16-19

[Interview with Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the RTAF CINC, who has a taste for Buddhist teachings; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] What do you do on your days off?

[Answer] During my days off, I usually do one of two things. I either go into Bangkok or visit the provinces. Seeing greenery and the mountains gives me pleasure. I also like to drive. Driving relaxes me. It takes away the tension. I am a strange person. I once talked with a doctor who felt the same way, that is, who enjoyed driving a car. It's relaxing to drive in the provinces. During my free time, on my days off, I prefer to take my family to the provinces rather than go into Bangkok. That's what I like to do.

[Question] It's said that you like to go to the temple and discuss the Buddhist teachings with the monks.

[Answer] It's like this. When I was about 20 years old, I became interested in political ideologies. I liked to read about political ideas. I studied this seriously. Later on, I came to several conclusions. I saw that people often lied to each other and so I lost interest in this. After I joined the air force, I wanted to study something to increase my knowledge. I became interested in the rice issue, which is one of the country's main issues. After that, I became interested in religion and political economics. I wanted to find out why we were still poor. I thought about what would be good to study. I read the biography of Gen Eisenhower. He said that if commanders are interested in religion or have religious faith, their subordinates will at least know that they will be treated fairly. That struck me as being true.

During the period that I attended the Air Force Academy, the then commandant wrote comments on all the cadets. About me, he wrote that I was good in all respects. He said that he hoped that I would take an interest in religion. After that, whenever there was a

religious event, he sent me there as the school's representative. But this embarrassed me, because I knew very little about this. When I went up to the rostrum, I was asked about religious matters. I couldn't answer any of the questions. He acted as if he was trying to tease me. He sent me every time. For example, I was asked, What is the Tripitaka? I couldn't answer the question. What is it about? I didn't know. I was very embarrassed.

After I graduated from the academy, I realized that I had to study, but I didn't know how to go about this or where to start. There was an air force chaplain who had studied the precepts. I went and told him that I wanted to study religion. I asked him to recommend some books for me. I tried to give him some money to buy books for me, but he said that that wasn't necessary. He said I could pay him after he bought the books. He disappeared for 2 months. I lost confidence in him. But then one day, he telephoned me and said that he had some books for me. At that time, he lived in Bangkok and so I had to go to Bangkok. He gave me a stack of books. Altogether, they cost about 200 baht. That was when books were still quite cheap. I still feel indebted to him. Because if it had been someone who didn't know which books to choose, I might have lost my interest in religion. The books that he chose included the Vinaya Pitaka, the Jataka stories, the Traiphum, and books for novices. That is, he selected a variety of books, which made it interesting. We read parts from each of the books. I felt that I was benefiting from reading these books. Sometimes, when I have a difficult decision to make, I use the Buddhist teachings to help me make the decision. At that time, I was about 26 years old. I was serving as a flying instructor. I held the rank of pilot officer. After graduating, I began these studies. I did not waste my free time. I read books that I thought would benefit me. After I finished reading these books, I went to the temples and talked with the monks about the teachings. The first time I went, I felt self-conscious, because I didn't know how to act. But gradually, I learned. I talked with several monks. I studied the good qualities of each one. It gave me great pleasure to talk to these monks. They did not discuss their problems with me, and I did not discuss my problems with them.

Thus, when I travel in the provinces, besides going to see the scenery, I also visit temples and talk with monks. This makes me feel good. After working all week, I look forward to these trips again. The entire family goes. I began teaching my children about the Buddhist teachings when they were young. They are interested in this, too. My wife and I are both interested. If one of us were not interested, it would be difficult.

[Question] To which temple do you usually go?

[Answer] I go to many different temples. I try to visit monks whom I have not seen for a long time. I visit the Pak Nam and Phasicharoen temples. In the past, I had much more free time. On the weekends, I often visited a temple. Recently, my workload has increased greatly,

and sometimes I have to work on the weekends. Consequently, I haven't been able to go as often. But I have never felt great stress. I have always been very happy with my work.

[Question] When you were a child, which schools did you attend?

[Answer] I attended Assumption School and then entered the Air Force Academy. Others who graduated from Assumption School include Kan (Air Chief Marshal Kan Phimanthip, the new air force chief of staff) and Suwit (Air Marshal Suwit Chanpradit, the former commandant of the Air Force Academy). Te (Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin), a fellow classmate at the academy, graduated from Trium Udom School. There were only about 30 cadets in my class, Class 1. The school wasn't fully prepared and so only a few cadets were admitted. At that time, we were all very close to each other. We slept in the same barracks.

[Question] Why did you decide to join the air force?

[Answer] You will be surprised. My father had three children. He wanted his children to be doctors. The eldest, a son, studied engineering. The second studied accounting. That left me. He wanted me to study medicine. He had been disappointed twice already. When I graduated, Kan came to see me. He said that the Air Force Academy was accepting applications. He said that he had already applied. He asked me to take the entrance test with him. He didn't want to go alone. I had never been to Don Muang in my life. It was too far away. I told him to ask Suwit to go, too. And so the three of us went and took the test. Actually, I went to keep Kan company. The Air Force Academy gave its test before Chulalongkorn University. I took the test but did not really care whether I passed it or not. It was Kan who came and told me that I had passed. And so I decided to go ahead and accept the appointment to the academy. At least, I wouldn't have to take another entrance test. I told my father, who accepted this. He said that I could take the test for medical school and that if I passed, I could drop out of the academy. I said that I didn't want to do that. That made him angry. Thus, I attended the academy because of a friend.

[Question] There are rumors to the effect that you do not have many friends and do not attend many social gatherings. Thus, some people do not think that you are suited to serving as RTAF CINC.

[Answer] I have been in the air force for more than 30 years. In my career, I have always been on the front line. When we accepted the Victory Flag, I was the one who accepted it. When we graduated, I was the first person to receive the sword. At the academy, I was the cadet captain. During the time that I served as an instructor, I taught several classes of cadets. During the time that I served as a flying instructor, I taught six classes of students. I also taught at the Training Division, Flight

Training School, for 3 years. I served as the leader of the 13th Squadron and as the commander of the 1st Wing. I have taught many students. I have been very successful in my career. During the course of my career, I have been given two-step promotions nine times.

My motto is that if you do something, you must do it as well as possible. I have never complained to my superiors. If we are given an order, we have to carry it out to the letter. I have done things that were contrary to my own feelings, but I carried out these tasks to the best of my ability.

When I served in Laos, Lt Gen Withun (Yasawat) asked me to transfer to the army. I told him that I was a pilot and that I couldn't join the army. The army has cavalrymen, artillerymen, and infantrymen. I am a pilot. Just before I was to return, students were selected to take a special warfare course taught by American specialists. Five students were selected. Lt Gen Withun asked me to take the course, but I refused even though it was very difficult to get into that program. He said, "I have asked you to take this course, but you have refused. Others are eager to get into this program." I told him that I was a pilot and that I wanted to continue flying. While working there, when considering people's good points, I let my subordinates go and gave two-step promotions. Lt Gen Withun said, "And what about you?" I said that if I did that, no one would work with me. I said that I had to do this for my subordinates to show them that their superior was aware of their achievements. Those who criticized me for being unambitious.... These were people who were just starting to go out. I had gone out enough when I was younger. Thus, these people said that I was unambitious.

[Question] What are your work principles?

[Answer] What I am most strict about is speed. If a person does his work too slowly, it's worthless. Second, although a person must be fast, he must also be accurate. If you are fast but make mistakes, that's no good. And you have to be efficient. I frequently tell my subordinates that if a task is not completed within 7 days, they must explain why it took longer than 7 days. If they don't have a satisfactory explanation, they are criticized.

[Question] While you were a student at the Air Force Academy, did you become close friends with anyone from CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 5?

[Answer] While I was a student at the academy, we participated in sports events together. But I did not play sports and so I didn't have a chance to get to know them. Sports brought people together. One member of CRMA Class 5 whom I knew was Maj Gen Thawisit Sangsombwong. We had been classmates at Assumption School. We had known each other ever since we were children.

[Question] Did Te play sports?

[Answer] He played rugby. I think that he attended Chula 1 year. But he is not very close to CRMA Class 5. When he meets members of this class, he greets them. For example, whenever he meets Lt Gen Isaraphong, or Commander San (Maj Gen San Siphen, the commander of the 1st Division), he chats with them. He sees them frequently. Or Suchinda, he talks with him whenever he meets him.

[Question] Are you close to Admiral Supha, the supreme commander?

[Answer] No. I attended the Armed Forces Staff College in 1973. That was when he was assigned to the Armed Forces Staff College. But he was not one of my instructors. On official visits upcountry, we sometimes go together. I respect him as a senior officer. But we seldom have a chance to chat with each other. We are involved in different things. When I see him at the library, I pay my respects. We then go about our own business.

[Question] Admiral Supha gave an interview after the military reshuffle? Are you proud of the fact that your superiors have such great confidence in you?

[Answer] Definitely. I am happy that my superiors are aware of the things that I have done.

[Question] Since your appointment, have you talked with the minister of defense?

[Answer] No. I will probably see him after I take this position officially.

[Question] Do you foresee any problems?

[Answer] No. Te, for example, is a friend. We were classmates.

[Question] There have been rumors that some air force officers are unhappy about your appointment.

[Answer] I don't blame them. They are probably disappointed and feel that they haven't been given responsibility. But people must adhere to military discipline, which prohibits filing petitions or making demands. If people want to make a request, they must do go through channels. They must go through their superiors. If they do otherwise, they are disregarding military discipline.

[Question] It seems that your knowledge of the Buddhist teachings plays a major role in how you arrange your life.

[Answer] That's correct. I am not jealous of anyone. I don't harbor resentment against anyone. I don't become discouraged. If I had not been appointed to this position, for example, that would have been fine. I would have continued to try to do the best job possible as an air force officer.

Change of History, Moral Principles Leading the Air Force

What happened in the air force during the recent military reshuffle is still being talked about today.

SU ANAKHOT interviewed Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the new RTAF CINC. For the most part, he was asked about general topics in order to acquaint readers with the new RTAF CINC. Because until recently, Air Chief Marshal Woranat was not very well known publicly.

As for why Air Chief Marshal Woranat, and not Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, was appointed RTAF CINC, which has caused quite a stir, SU ANAKHOT has obtained the following information:

The "Five Factors" That Led to Kaset's Downfall

First, Gen Prem did not like his involvement with arms dealers. A high-level news source of SU ANAKHOT said that several months ago, Gen Prem sent one of his subordinates to investigate matters in the air force. Regarding the "arms dealers" who caused these problems, the news source said that "even though you are not close to them, they are close to you." Gen Prem was not happy about this. Those who wanted to make Gen Prem happy stayed out of this.

Second, Gen Prem was unhappy with the way that Air Chief Marshal Praphan tried to transfer power to Air Chief Marshal Kaset. Gen Prem is opposed to this type of system in the country's military. He does not want the "power circles" in the various branches of service to join together like this. It can be said that Gen Prem likes the idea of "divide and rule." And that is not all. Air Chief Marshal Praphan had ties to the old power base in the army that Gen Prem had "dismissed." If he had allowed Air Chief Marshal Praphan to choose his successor, that could have had an adverse effect on Gen Prem's position. The news source asked SU ANAKHOT, "If you were Gen Prem, wouldn't you have done the same thing?"

Third, there was the close relationship with CRMA Class 5, particularly the close relationship between the leader of Class 5, Lt Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, and Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin. If everything had turned out as expected, that is, if Lt Gen Suchinda had been appointed army chief of staff, Air Chief Marshal Kaset had been appointed RTAF CINC, and other classmates had been appointed to important positions, Class 5 would have presented a solid front. Gen Prem remembered the lesson taught him by CRMA Class 7, a lesson that is hard for him to forget. Thus, Gen Prem was loath to allow the same situation to arise again, even though many people believe that this is inevitable.

As for Air Chief Marshal Woranat, although he is the same age as those of CRMA Class 5, he was considered to be outside the power circle. This game is called "divide and rule."

Fourth, during the past several years, it cannot be denied that the air force has become involved in some unsavory matters that need to be corrected. Looking back, the air force supported the old power base in the army, which Gen Prem "dismissed." There was also the share fund scandal and the rebellion on 9 September 1985. Gen Prem wanted the air force to take on a new appearance. He wanted a commander who was not involved in the power struggles. He wanted a professional officer of high moral quality. Based on this, Air Chief Marshal Woranat was a suitable choice.

Fifth, there were personal reasons involving Air Chief Marshal Kaset. This was the least important factor. It was not decisive.

Have you ever read a novel whose plot revolves around a triangular love relationship? A beautiful woman, who is married, is the secretary of a senior air force officer. Her husband, a squadron leader, has to go abroad. When he returns, he discovers that his wife has been receiving financial support from and is very close to the senior air force officer. Many people say such novels are very close to real life and that such affairs have affected the careers of certain people, even though this has been denied.

"I can assure you that Air Vice Marshal Yutthaphong Kittikhachon did not take that "squadron leader" to see Gen Prem," said an aide to Gen Prem to SU ANAKHOT, repeating what Gen Prem had said before in an interview.

But other news sources said that Air Vice Marshal Yutthaphong took this "squadron leader" to see Admiral Supha Kotseni, the supreme commander, who is related to Air Vice Marshal Yutthaphong.

These are the five factors that, taken together, led to the downfall of Air Chief Marshal Kaset. However, a high-level news source said that the final decision on whom to appoint RTAF CINC (as well as RTN CINC) was made by Gen Prem.

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Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations Profiled

42070058d Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
28 Sep 87 p 5

[DAILY NEWS Square column by Nanthana: "Acting Air Marshal Samroeng Koekaeo, the assistant air force chief of staff for operations"]

[Text] Acting Air Marshal Samroeng Koekaeo, the new assistant air force chief of staff for operations, was born on 17 June 1935 in Phetburi. But he grew up in Surat

Thani. He attended primary and secondary school in Surat Thani in the same class as Air Vice Marshal Fangphum Bunliang, the director of the Directorate of Quartermaster, and Phatkon Charunrat, an MP from Surat Thani Province.

He graduated from the Air Force Academy as a member of Class 2 in 1949, the same class as Air Vice Marshal Fangphum Bunliang, Air Vice Marshal Danai Morin, Air Vice Marshal Kasem Thawiwat, Air Vice Marshal Akhom Anthawethayaworawutti, and Air Vice Marshal Sommot Sunthonwet.

After graduating from the academy, he served as a aeronautical engineer. Later on, he took pilot training and served with the 6th Wing. In 1972 he was transferred to the Directorate of Logistics. He climbed his way up from deputy section chief to director of this directorate. He is a real "fighting fish" of the Directorate of Logistics.

While serving with the Directorate of Logistics, he had a chance to continue his education and make frequent trips abroad to attend conferences. Close friends used to tease him by saying, "So, you've returned home on a visit."

Acting Air Marshal Samroeng has earned a reputation as an expert in purchasing aircraft and weapons both here and abroad. Some of the important tasks that he has carried out include serving as the assistant secretary for the program to procure OV-10 aircraft and secretary for the program to procure F5 E/F aircraft, first and second

flights. At present, he heads the work team that is involved in purchasing and making preparations to take possession of the F16 aircraft. In this program, Acting Air Marshal Samroeng has used his knowledge, talents, and experience to ensure that the program to take possession of the F16 aircraft proceeds in an orderly manner. He has been praised by U.S. Air Force officials several times. He negotiated with officials of General Dynamics and U.S. Air Force Officials to lower the purchase price of the weapons and materials purchased as part of this program, saving the air force hundreds of millions of baht. This is probably one of the reasons why he is the first member of Air Force Academy Class 2 to be promoted to air marshal.

Acting Air Marshal Samroeng has been married to Kalaya Thatsanakon, the daughter of a millionaire who owns an orchard in Samut Songkhram Province, for 26 years. They have two sons.

He was very happy about the results of the F16 project, a 10-billion-baht project to increase the efficiency of the air force with the help of the U.S. Air Force. He was responsible for this project, which won praise for being an outstanding project of the Thai air force. He was praised for the exemplary way in which things were prepared and carried out. And then, in the midst of this came the good news that he had been promoted to air marshal and appointed assistant air force chief of staff for operations. His future looks very bright.

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POLITICAL

Ways To Improve Youth Union Work on District Level Suggested
42090060a Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese
Aug 87 pp 25-27, 16

[Article by Nguyen Quoc Lap: "Some Thoughts on Changing and Improving the Work Methods of District Youth Union Organizations"]

[Text] Changing and improving the work methods of district Youth Union organizations are matters of very important significance because they provide material conditions which guarantee success in implementation. The district Youth Union organizations are the level that directly guides the basic organizations of the Youth Union. Therefore, they must have good methods of providing guidance before they can improve the results of their work. In the present situation, there are new requirements being faced in guiding the youth movement from the standpoint of:

- The speed, effectiveness, practicality and efficiency of the methods employed;
- Being close to basic units and close to the masses;
- Planning in Youth Union work;
- Establishing widespread integration in every field with all sectors and agencies, with all of society;
- The qualitative changes in and development of the objects of the work of district Youth Union organizations.

From the perspective of research, we view the requirements cited above as objective. However, efforts to meet these requirements will occur under circumstances in which many district Youth Union organizations find themselves in the following situation:

—The corps of specialized district Youth Union cadres is inadequate and has not received systematic training. Studies conducted in the five districts of Ba Thuoc, Trieu Yen, Nga Son, Dong Son and Ngoc Lac and in Thanh Hoa City in Thanh Hoa Province show: the total number of specialized cadres is 40, an average of 6 per district. Of these 40 cadres, 10 cadres, or one-fourth, are women and 6 are temporarily assigned to the Youth Union. Five cadres have a level II education, 34 have a level III education and 1 has a college education. Thus, the majority of these district Youth Union cadres has a level III education. Eleven of these cadres, roughly one-fourth of the total, have a middle level education in theory and politics and 19, about one-half, have an elementary level education in theory and politics. Thus, the majority has an elementary level of education in

theory and politics. As regards their specialized qualifications, 4 of the 40 have a middle level teacher's education and 3 of the 40 have a middle level education in agriculture. The remaining cadres come from various sectors and trades, such as troops transferred to the Youth Union and cadres of district sectors and agencies transferred to Youth Union work. Thus, the number of cadres who have knowledge of agricultural techniques is very small. This is inconsistent with the main requirement of the district level Youth Union organization, namely, guiding the youth movement within agriculture. Through a forum with the above mentioned district Youth Union organizations, we found:

- The levels of education and political awareness of district Youth Union cadres are not uniform;
- They have little knowledge of a specialized economic or technical sector;
- The majority of district Youth Union organizations has yet to turn their efforts to guiding the activities of the Youth Union in industry or at agencies and schools (especially vocational and level III schools);
- The quality of the work performed by district Youth Union cadres for basic units is very low. This work mainly entails listening to reports on the situation, receiving data and so forth;
- The majority of district Youth Union cadres has been drawn from basic units or the army.

The number of cadres who have been trained by the Youth Union is small. Very few have been trained by the Youth Union schools on the central level. However, it must be acknowledged that one good aspect of this corps of district Youth Union cadres is that they know how to perform specific jobs. But, organizational work and guidance on the scale of the district level are still marked by confusion and difficulties. Most district Youth Union cadres are between the ages of 25 and 30 (the majority is new to this work and the turnover rate is high). Thus, there is a widespread lack of experience in leadership and guidance. Deserving of attention is the fact that the work style of the majority of the young cadres drawn from basic units is haphazard and simplistic. For example, meetings are held without the minutes being recorded and reports are rarely prepared in advance (presentations are too long); at special district Youth Union meetings held to introduce a resolution, cadres leave their seats and run in and out of the room; work is performed without a plan and is completed late.

The causes of this situation are:

- District Youth Union organizations do not plan their work well.
- The assignment of responsibilities to each level and each person is not detailed.

- Policies have not been formulated on visiting basic units and reporting on the situation there.
- There are no regulations or procedures concerning studies and meetings at district Youth Union organizations.
- The rotation and development of the corps of Youth Union cadres are not planned.

In light of the actual situation described above and the new requirements of Youth Union work on the district level in keeping with the spirit of the five standards of solid and strong district Youth Union organizations, allow us to present the following thoughts on changing and improving the work methods of district Youth Union organizations:

I. Procedures and methods of Youth Union work must be established which bring the Youth Union close to basic units, close to the masses.

To guide the activities of district level Youth Union organizations well and build widespread and effective mass movements, it is first of all necessary for the specialized cadres of district Youth Union organizations and the executive committees of these organizations to be thoroughly familiar with basic Youth Union organizations, to maintain close contact with them, most importantly with village Youth Union organizations and the Youth Union chapters at agricultural cooperatives. This must be manifested by Youth Union cadres (on the district level) working at basic units, knowing their economic and political characteristics and knowing the situation concerning the organization and forces of basic organizations, such as the party organization, the Youth Union organization and the cooperative, particularly the situation concerning the corps of district Youth Union cadres and the force of Youth Union members and youths. They must know the process by which the basic Youth Union organizations that they have the responsibility of observing conduct their activities, know their strengths and weaknesses... The key to success here is for district Youth Union cadres to scientifically assess the situation of basic Youth Union organizations as they perform the tasks of their district Youth Union, district party committee or party committee.

—In particular, attention must be given to guiding and assisting above average and deficient basic organizations. Efforts must be focused on guiding pilot projects and increasing the number and the scope of advanced models. Maintaining close contact with basic organizations, with youths lays the ground work for basic organizations to gain a thorough understanding of policies and tasks, for helping cadres on the basic level to grasp work requirements, work methods and forms of implementation and for helping basic organizations to overcome their difficulties in order to perform their tasks well. Adopting new thinking concerning Youth Union work means changing the methods of Youth Union work

and making them more effective. District Youth Union cadres going to basic organizations only to hear reports on the situation and receive data is a practice that must be stopped. Being close to basic organizations means that cadres should develop a close relationship with basic organizations and be responsible to the basic organization or cluster of basic organizations of which they are in charge. They must personally inform youths of the specific requirements of jobs, instruct them in how to do what must be done and sometimes join them in the actions they take. In this way, district Youth Union cadres can get to know youths, learn their aspirations and private thoughts, develop a close relationship with them and assist them. To change the work style of district Youth Union cadres, it is first necessary to establish for the district Youth Union organization a mechanism and procedures concerning its work and visits to basic organizations: there must be a clear policy on how often cadres must go to basic organizations (2 weeks each month) and a clear policy on reporting on the situation at basic organizations. Each district Youth Union cadre should be in charge of one cluster of basic organizations. In this way, it would not be necessary at all for the district Youth Union organization to convene a meeting of the executive committee or a cadre conference every time a policy or resolution is received from the Youth Union organization on the upper level. These practices waste money and time and result in implementation being carried out slowly at basic organizations.

Information about many jobs can be directly disseminated to the cluster or basic organization and then disseminated to Youth Union detachments and chapters, to Youth Union members and youths through other means of propaganda, such as wired radio and assault propaganda teams. Changes and improvements in the work methods of district level Youth Union cadres should also be reflected in these cadres truly concerning themselves with the thoughts, feelings and interests of Youth Union cadres at basic organizations. When the Youth Union cadres at basic organizations are encountering difficulties, district Youth Union cadres must wholeheartedly assist them and also arrange for youths to assist them. District Youth Union cadres must also give appropriate attention to guiding and organizing youths in living a wholesome, happy and productive life. The main tasks of the Youth Union are to teach communism to youths and mold the new youth. The new man is trained and emerges not only in productive labor, but also in every aspect of social life.

—The Youth Union must be the close friend of all youths. To accomplish this, it is first of all necessary for the leadership cadres of the Youth Union to be oriented toward the masses in their style, maintain a close relationship with and assist them, concern themselves with the problems of everyday life, particularly the material and spiritual interests of youths.

To change and improve the work methods of district Youth Union cadres in this regard, should not regulations be adopted on visiting basic units and periodically hearing reports from cadres on the status of the thinking of youths at basic units?

2. Planning Youth Union work on the basis of its three areas of work: educating, organizing and taking action within the district.

The Youth Union organization of a district must perform many jobs at the same time. Each job is urgent and pressing. The district Youth Union organization also has the responsibility of guiding basic Youth Union organizations in performing these jobs well. The district Youth Union organization is a part of many other organizations and coordinates with many sectors within the district. It must comply with the guidance provided by the district party committee and the Youth Union organization on the upper level while maintaining its working relationships with basic Youth Union organizations. Through research conducted in Ngoc Lac District in the mountain area of Thanh Hoa Province, we found that the district's Youth Union organization must deal with 60 different matters and requests each month. These are in the forms of official correspondence, directives, resolutions and invitations to meetings from party committees and the Youth Union organization on the upper level, from coordinating committees and sectors. There are also requests from basic Youth Union organizations. Each matter must be dealt with differently. But each must be resolved, be carried out well. On the other hand, every Youth Union member and youth is a member of many organizations and many sectors. A Youth Union member can also be a worker or cooperative member, a member of a trade union, a self-defense soldier or a member of the Vietnam Women's Union. In addition, everyone participates in a different kind of social work, such as teaching supplementary education, performing information and propaganda work, taking charge of a club or cultural hall, participating in athletics... These are factors deserving of attention which necessitate that the work of district level Youth Union organizations be planned on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly basis. In particular, when a district Youth Union organization is integrated with various sectors in work, it is even more necessary for it to adopt a specific plan, one which encompasses economic matters and the funding of Youth Union activities.

The best approach to planning is for the district Youth Union organization to examine local circumstances and the capabilities of basic Youth Union organizations, of Youth Union members and youths and, relying upon the Youth Union organization on the upper level, adopt a comprehensive work program. The priority given to the jobs of the Youth Union must be based on the nature and importance of these jobs. There must be integration and coordination on every job. The Youth Union must control and take the initiative on every job. Thus, it must schedule the work to be performed, assign cadres and

forces, plan the forms of guidance to be employed, avoid providing leadership not based on projections and avoid working without a plan and doing what job comes along. In planning the work of district Youth Union organizations, importance must be attached to education, organization and action because these are the three most important aspects of Youth Union work. The work of district level Youth Union organizations can only be improved when this work is based on a scientific plan. Only when the work of district Youth Union organizations is planned is it possible to guarantee democracy and unity, to heighten the spirit of responsibility of basic Youth Union organizations and to take the initiative and tap the creativity of basic organizations, of Youth Union members and youths, of Youth Union cadres on the district level.

It is a common practice for many district Youth Union organizations to perform their work without a program or plan. They are constantly performing emergency jobs and are always being caught unprepared. There is no focus to their work. The guidance they provide is not thorough. For these reasons, planning Youth Union work on the district level is becoming an urgent need.

3. Changing and improving the methods of integrating with sectors in Youth Union work within the district.

On the basis of the realization and the requirement in the mobilization of youths that this is work of the entire party, of the entire dictatorship of the proletariat system, bringing the combined strength of the entire dictatorship of the proletariat system to the mobilization of youths is an objective requirement in the current situation. Therefore, Youth Union work on the district level is closely related to many different sectors. The Youth Union must know how to gain the participation of the sectors in coordinating with it in Youth Union work, how to gain their psychological and material support of the district's Youth Union work. On the district level, the sections and sectors with which the district Youth Union organization must maintain regular and close ties are usually the following: the propaganda-training section, the organization section, the trade unions, the women's union organization, the cultural-information office, the education office, the public health office, the district military unit, the public security sector, the wired radio station, the physical culture-sports office and such economic-technical sectors as the water conservancy sector, the foreign trade sector, the supply sector and so forth. This integration consists of two main elements: integration in work policies, programs and plans and coordination in guiding the organization of implementation, in education and in organizing revolutionary action movements among youths. Recent experience at many strong and solid district Youth Union organizations shows that in order to establish good integration and coordination with the various sections and sectors, the district Youth Union organization and each cadre must have a firm grasp of the major work policies and measures of the various sectors. At the same time, they must take the

initiative in giving these sectors a clear understanding of the work plan of the Youth Union and propose to these sectors specific requirements and measures, such as having these sectors appoint cadres to observe and coordinate in providing guidance, investing funds and developing formats and methods for coordinating in work.

Under present conditions, integration with the various sectors in Youth Union work is producing increasing results. According to surveys conducted in Dong Son and Ngoc Lac Districts in Thanh Hoa Province and Chau Giang District in Hai Hung Province, high results have been achieved in the effort to provide guidance because these district Youth Union organizations and each of their cadres have learned how to develop and make use of close integration with the various sectors. Integration from the standpoint of work between the Youth Union and the trade union organizations, the district military unit, the education office, the cultural office, the district public security force, the water conservancy section, the agricultural section and so forth in teaching communism to youths has been achieved by making decisions together. They have organized emulation movements coordinated among workers, teachers and women. They have coordinated in organizing skill training and testing campaigns with attention to the studies and living conditions of youths and in organizing seminars between Youth Union cadres and management and technical cadres of the various sectors within the district...

An effective form of integration today is the signing of joint programs between the district Youth Union organization and the various sections and sectors within the district. These are programs of a general nature which coordinate the activities of the district Youth Union organization and the sections, sectors and other organizations of the district in teaching communism, building the economy and carrying out cultural and educational development. Many sectors have contacted district Youth Union organizations and assigned young, competent cadres to these organizations for the purpose of coordinating work.

However, in some districts, the Youth Union still integrates itself with other sectors by "being a member." This means that the district Youth Union organization participates as a member of the steering committee, the distribution committee, the procurement committee, the education committee and so forth. However, it only participates during meetings held to implement policies. It does little by way of guiding work at basic units or does not have the cadres needed to observe and guide, as a result of which it only participates at the start of campaigns and when campaigns are being summarized.

Effective, practical integration in the work of district Youth Union organizations is, in view of present conditions, a necessary requirement of all levels of the Youth

Union and every district level Youth Union cadre. Scientific integration must become the work style and method of every specialized and semi-specialized Youth Union cadre.

The above are some initial thoughts aimed at helping to find ways to change and improve the work methods of district Youth Union organizations in the new situation.

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Chronology (15 Aug-14 Sep 87)

*42000201 Hanoi VIETNAM COURIER in English
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[Text]

August

18. The State Council issues a decision ordering the release of a number of prisoners and a reduction of prison terms for others on the occasion of National Day (2 September). (See article on page 9)

19. Hanoi: Formal exchange of ratification instruments of the treaty on mutual legal assistance between Vietnam and Cuba.

—Vietnamese singer Quang Tho is awarded a second prize at the International Light Music Contest "Friendly Melodies—87" held in Ulan Bator (Mongolia) from 5 to 19 August 1987.

19-23. Indonesian trade delegation led by Djukardi Odang, Chairman of the Pantja Niaga Company, visits Vietnam.

20-28. Hanoi: Holding of the Third Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee of the communist Party of Vietnam. (See article on page 4)

21. The office of the SRV National Assembly and State Council publishes the Draft Law on Land for public debate.

30. Havana: Vietnamese artist Nguyen Quang Minh is awarded a second prize at the Fourth International Circus Festival held in Cuba.

31 Aug-7 Sept. A delegation of the Yemen—vietnam Friendship Association led by Dr Abdul Wasa Sallam, Minister of Justice and President of the Association, visits Vietnam.

September

1. Hanoi: Holding in Ba Dinh Hall of a grand meeting to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day (2 September). Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung delivers an important speech. (See excerpts on page 10)

1-2. A delegation of the SRV State Council led by its Vice-President Nguyen Huu Tho attends the second summit conference of French-speaking countries held in Canada.

1-15. A delegation of high-level experts on the technology of non-ferrous metals led by L.A. Pramonov, department head in the Soviet State Planning Commission, pays a visit to Vietnam.

3-8. A CPV delegation led by Vu Oanh, Secretary of the Central Committee and head of its Economic Commission pays a visit to Bulgaria.

5. Nearly 15 million school-children throughout the country begin the 1987-1988 school-year. (See "Panorama" on page 1)

6. Vietnam attends the Leipzig Autumn Fair. Its exhibits include consumer goods, canned foods, porcelain objects, coconut products. Instant cured cuttlefish processed by the AGREEXPORT Company (Ho Chi Minh City) is awarded a gold medal.

6-10. At the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien visits Japan on his way to New York to attend the 42nd UN General Assembly.

7-10. Jean Pierre Hocke, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, visits Vietnam.

8. Hanoi: The State Council holds a regular session to discuss a law-making programme for 1988. It adopts draft Regulations on the organization and activity of People's Councils and appoints a vice-president for the People's Supreme Court, two vice-presidents for the Supreme People's Prosecution Office, and some judges for military courts.

—Cheddi Jagan, General Secretary of the People's Progressives Party of Guyana, pays an official visit to Vietnam.

—XUNHASABA (Vietnam State Corporation for Export and Import of Books, Periodicals and other Cultural Commodities) attends the sixth international book fair held in Moscow, exhibiting 500 books from 51 publishing houses in the country.

9. Milcho Peychev, vice-chairman of the Presidium of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front's National Council, concludes his visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

9-11. A delegation of the vietnam Fatherland Front headed by Huynh Tan Phat, President of its Presidium, attends the Second Congress of the Lao Front for National Construction.

12-15. V.L. Artyomov, secretary of the International Journalists' Organization (OIJ) and special envoy of this organization, visits Vietnam and holds working sessions with leaders of the Vietnam Journalists' Association.

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MILITARY

Structure of Party Apparatus Within VPA Explained

42090064 Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese Sep 87 pp 15-27

[Article by Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep: "The Fundamental Elements in Organizing Leadership by the Party Within the Vietnam People's Army"]

[Text] More than 10 years ago, when our country's revolution first entered the new stage, in order to increase the strength of the armed forces, build a national defense system of all the people, meet the requirements involved in defending the fatherland and further strengthen the direct, centralized and unified leadership of the army by the party, our party, at its

Fourth Congress, pointed out: "We must study ways to improve the party's leadership of the army, to strengthen the organization of the party and the principles and organization of political work within the army to be consistent with the organizational development and the new tasks of the army." (Footnote 1) ("The Report Summarizing Party Building and The Revision of Party Statutes" at the 4th Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1977, pp 120-121) In keeping with the resolution of the Fourth Party Congress, the Political Bureau issued a resolution on "making changes and improvements to the mechanism by which the party leads the Vietnam People's Army, national defense work and the implementation of the 'one person in command' policy within the army." Two years after putting the new leadership mechanism into practice, the Political Bureau issued the resolution on "continuing to strengthen the mechanism by which the party leads the Vietnam People's Army and national defense work." The Sixth Party Congress, "determined to bring about revolutionary and scientific changes in the leadership work performed by the party..." (Footnote 2) (The Proceedings of the Sixth National Congress of the CPV, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p209) and "build the party so that it is truly worthy of being a ruling party that has the weighty responsibility of leading all the people in successfully performing the two strategic tasks" (Footnote 3) (*Ibid.*), amended the Party Statutes, adding a chapter on "the organization of the leadership of the party within the people's armed forces." This indicates the party's special concern for building the armed forces and strengthening the national defense system in the new period, the period of building and defending the socialist fatherland.

Resolution 07 (15 December 1982) and Resolution 27 (4 July 1985) of the Political Bureau and Chapter VI of the Party Statutes (December 1986) represent a process of continuously changing, supplementing, developing and improving the mechanism by which the party leads the army and national defense work. It can be said that this has been a period of examining the experiences of our party in how leadership was organized within the army in the preceding stage of the revolution and testing the advanced experiences of the parties and armies of the fraternal socialist countries, most importantly of the Soviet Union, in order to reach fully revolutionary and scientific conclusions that closely relate to the realities of Vietnam. This period has also been a period of continuous struggle with the party organization of the army concerning the matters of how we perceive and view the role, position and task of the party organization, of party-political work, of political agencies and of the commanders within our army as well as the principles of organization and the leadership principles and procedures of the party.

Chapter VI of the Party Statutes adopted at the Sixth Party Congress summarizes, amends and refines matters of major importance concerning leadership views and principles and the mechanism by which the party leads the army and national defense work.

The stipulations of the Party Secretariat concerning the organization of the party and the organization of political agencies and the stipulations of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee concerning the basic organizations of the party within the Vietnam People's Army are the concretization of the fundamental elements involved in building the party and organizing party leadership within the army as stipulated in the Party Statutes. At the same time, they also fully reflect the spirit of change in the party's organizational and cadre work and its adoption of a new style of work as well as its determination to firmly adhere to the principles of party organization and life set by the Sixth Congress.

The leadership mechanism of the party as defined in the important documents described above reflect the fundamental tenets of Marxist-Leninist doctrine on building the new style party of the working class and building revolutionary armed forces; thoroughly reflect the political line and tasks and the military line and tasks of the party in the new stage of the revolution; build upon the fine traditions and the valuable experiences of our party and our army in the revolution and the war of national liberation; and apply the important experiences gained in the past 10 years of building the party and building the army in the stage of building and defending the fatherland. At the same time, this mechanism selectively incorporates the advanced experiences of the parties and armies of the fraternal socialist countries, most importantly the Soviet Union.

The leadership mechanism that has been established by our party "guarantees strong leadership by the party in every situation, upholds the principle of collective leadership, heightens the responsibility of the commander and heightens the effectiveness of party-political work, thereby constantly increasing the fighting strength of the army." (Footnote 3) (Political Bureau (5th) Resolution Number 27)

Studying and learning the fundamental elements of the leadership mechanism and complying in a full and serious manner with the provisions of this mechanism will actively help to build an army party organization that is pure, solid and strong politically, ideologically and organizationally, raise the leadership provided by the party to a level commensurate with the task of defending the fatherland in the new stage and meet the requirements involved in solving the new problems that arise in strengthening the national defense system and building the people's armed forces, in the style of leadership and even in forging the qualities of the cadres and party members within the army.

Within the scope of this article, allow me to present a number of aspects of the leadership mechanism of the party based on Chapter VI of the Party Statutes (added by the Sixth Party Congress) in the hope of helping to further clarify the views, thinking and principles concerning the party's leadership of our army.

The Organization of the Party and the Leadership Task of Party Organizations

The Party Statutes state: "The Vietnam People's Army and the Vietnam People's Public Security Force are under the direct, centralized and unified leadership of the party in every respect" (Footnote 4) (Article 37 of the Party Statutes), specifically the leadership of "the Party Central Committee or, on a day to day basis, the Political Bureau and the Secretariat." (Footnote 5) (Article 38 of the Party Statutes).

The realities of nearly one-half century have proven that direct, centralized and unified leadership of every aspect of the army by the party has been the basic principle, the factor of foremost importance in each victory and in the growth of our army. In the new stage of the revolution, the cause of building the armed forces and strengthening the national defense system demand that we strengthen the party's leadership of the army so that the army always retains its working class character, possesses unquestioned loyalty to the fatherland and socialism, absolutely obeys the leadership of the party, unites closely around the Party Central Committee, maintains close ties to the working people, fully complies with the Constitution and the laws of the state, displays a high degree of self-imposed discipline, maintains tight internal unity, maintains combat readiness, fights victoriously, staunchly defends the socialist fatherland, eagerly participates in work to build the country and fulfills its international obligation.

The leadership of the party is not only expressed in the Party Central Committee, rather, "the party exercises its leadership through the system of party organizations on the various echelons, through the ideological and organizational activities of political agencies and on the basis of guaranteeing collective leadership by the party organization and the 'one person in command' policy on all echelons of the army." (Footnote 6) (Party Secretariat regulations on the organization of the party within the Vietnam People's Army) Thus, respecting and obeying the leadership of the party are not merely matters of respecting and obeying the leadership of the Party Central Committee, but also involve respecting and obeying the leadership of the organizations of the party on all echelons, from the upper echelon to the basic echelon. This is a matter of party awareness, a matter of principle.

Now that Resolution 07 of the Political Bureau (5th) has been in effect for some time, we have a fuller and deeper appreciation of the importance, the role and the position of the party organizational system and are even more convinced that it is both correct and rational for the army's party organization to be organized in a vertical system. This is an important experience of our army. Each echelon has its own political task and must be led by a party organization. The task of providing leadership belongs to the party organization, to the party committee. The vital experience drawn from the realities of our army party organization in recent years shows: in order

for leadership to be strong, this leadership must be constant from top to bottom and no organization can take the place of the leadership role of the party committee. Therefore, Article 37 of the Party Statutes states: "Within the Vietnam People's Army, the party is organized in a vertical system extending from the basic echelon to the all-army echelon in accordance with the stipulations of the Party Central Committee." On each echelon, there is a party organization executive committee (called the party committee). On the all-army echelon, there is the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee, which is under the leadership of the Party Central Committee or, on a day to day basis, under the leadership of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat.

The army party organization and the party organizations on the various echelons within the army are an integral part of the party. They "function in accordance with Party Statutes and the resolutions and directives of the Party Central Committee." (Footnote 7) (Article 37 of the Party Statutes) This is also a matter of party awareness, a matter of principle, one which insures that the party "is a united bloc from the standpoint of both will and action." (Footnote 8) (Party Statutes—the section "The Party and the Fundamentals of Party Building," Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p 13) The leadership agencies of the party organizations within the army must strictly comply with the principles of organization and leadership of the party and not cite special circumstances as a reason for compromising these principles. From the standpoint of organization, only the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee is appointed by the Party Central Committee. All other party organization executive committees on all echelons must be democratically elected and approved by the party committee on the upper echelon. In special cases, as required by the Party Central Committee, these executive committees are appointed by the party committee on the upper echelon.

In each organizational activity, in internal party life and in the style of work, the principle of democratic centralism must be fully upheld. Within party committees, there must be strict compliance with the policy of collective leadership in conjunction with personal accountability. This policy, which was standard practice throughout the two wars of resistance for national salvation and had the effect of heightening the leadership role of the party organization and the responsibility of the commander, thereby contributing to the historic victories of the nation, has become a valuable experience and fine tradition of our army and must be further asserted and developed under the new circumstances of today. Every party member, whether he holds a leadership or command position, must perform the job assigned by the collective of the party committee and fully comply with the resolutions of this collective as his duties require. The important tasks and jobs of the unit, especially those related to cadre work, must be discussed and decided by the party committee in accordance with the principle of collective leadership. The Political Report of the Party

Central Committee at the Sixth Congress pointed out: "The enormous organizational strength of the party lies in the full implementation of this principle. Bureaucratic centralism, paternalism, arbitrariness, the failure to respect the opinions of the lower echelon and the failure to tap the intelligence of the collective lead to incorrect decisions that weaken the unity of the party...and cause party leadership and state management to be ineffective." (Footnote 9) (The Proceedings of the Sixth Party Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p 135)

The Party Statutes (Article 38) state: "The party committees on the various echelons have the responsibility of leading subordinate units in every respect within the scope of their function and the regulations of each echelon..." Every aspect of the work and each activity of the unit are under the leadership and inspection of the party committee (standing committee), be it in combat, training or the maintenance of combat readiness, in cadre work, financial work and so forth. The party committee on the lower echelon must fully comply with the resolutions of the party committee and the orders and directives of the commander and agency on the upper echelon, discuss and gain a thorough understanding of the task assigned to it, assess the unit's situation in every respect and issue resolutions concerning leadership policies and measures in order to successfully perform these tasks. "The lower echelon, even if the person heading it is a member of the Central Committee, cannot give itself the authority to ignore or incorrectly implement a directive of the upper echelon." (Footnote 10) (The Proceedings of the Sixth Party Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p 136) The regulations of the Secretariat also define the comprehensive leadership task of the Party Committee in full and concrete detail: from building the unit politically to lay the groundwork for improving the quality of the unit in every respect and insuring that combat readiness is maintained and victory is won in combat to leading the effort to improve the productivity, quality and efficiency of productive labor, leading the participation in economic construction and leading compliance with the regulations on the management and use of the material-technical bases, finances and all other property of the army in exact accordance with the views of the party and the policies and positions of the state and army.

The Secretariat has also asserted: the party committees of the military regions, in conjunction with their responsibility of leading subordinate units in every respect, also have the tasks of guiding the build-up of the national defense system and the battlefield deployment of the people's war, guiding the development of local military work, complying with the army's rear area policies within the military region and assigning to local party committees the responsibility of leading the implementation of the resolutions of the party committee of the military region concerning the areas of work mentioned above.

The military party committees of the provinces, municipalities, districts, wards, precincts and cities must lead subordinate local troop units in successfully performing each task assigned by the local party committee and the party committee on the upper echelon and must propose to the local party committee ways to lead local military work, compliance with the army's rear area policies and the combining of the economy with national defense and national defense with security so that the party committee issues uniform resolutions to lead the various levels and sectors in performing this work. At the same time, they have the responsibility of assisting party committees by guiding them and observing what they do. In order for the party committees of the military regions and the military party committees of the provinces (municipalities) and districts (wards and precincts) to be able to perform these tasks well, the Secretariat has established an appropriate structure for each party committee echelon.

In summary, the party committee system is the organizational system for implementing and maintaining the leadership of the party on all echelons within the Vietnam People's Army. This system fully taps the intelligence of the collective and maintains personal accountability in the performance of each task in the work of the unit. At the same time, through the full and strict implementation of this system, the corps of cadres and party members is trained and forged in terms of their ideological stand and views, their personal qualities and ability, their party awareness and adherence to principles and their sense of organization and discipline and an effective struggle is waged against thinking and actions that are contrary to the character, views and principles of the party and the laws of the state.

The "One Person in Command" Policy

Our party always considers the implementation of the "one person in command" policy to be an integral part of strengthening its leadership of the army. At the Fourth Congress, the party pointed out: "It is necessary to implement the policy of collective leadership by the party committee in conjunction with implementing the commander policy very well in accordance with the requirements of the Party Central Committee." (Footnote 11) (The Report Reviewing Party Building and the Revision of Party Statutes at the 4th Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1977, p 122) At the 5th Congress, our party reasserted that "we must further strengthen the party's leadership of the armed forces. At the same time, we must fully implement the 'one person in command' policy." (Footnote 12) (The Proceedings of the 5th Congress, Su That Publishing House, 1982, Volume III, p 89) The Sixth Congress, on the basis of reviewing practice, recorded in Article 38 of the Party Statutes: "On the basis of insuring collective leadership by the party organization, the 'one person in command' policy must be implemented on all echelons of the army."

The "one person in command" policy reflects the trend of development of a modern, regular army. In the case of a revolutionary army, the "one person in command" policy must be implemented on the basis of the party. In the Vietnam People's Army, it must be implemented on the basis of insuring collective leadership by the party organization as defined in the Party Statutes. Closely tied to the tradition and practice of Vietnam, this is a concrete manifestation of the party's principle of "collective leadership in conjunction with personal accountability."

The view of our party is very clear: leadership is collective and only one person is in command. The activities of the commander must comply with the resolution of the leadership collective and must help to increase the effectiveness of the leadership provided by the party committee. The commander cannot place himself outside of nor can he act in a manner contrary to the leadership provided by the collective of the party committee. "No leader may place himself outside the organization and assume the right to act in a manner contrary to resolutions of the collective." (Footnote 13) (The Proceedings of the Sixth Congress, Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p 136) If he undertakes a task in an urgent situation or if, in the process of performing a task, the situation changes in a way that could not be foreseen at the last meeting of the party committee or standing committee, the commander must take the initiative, promptly predict how the situation will develop and promptly deal with this situation in order to successfully complete his task. Afterwards, he must report to the party committees on his echelon and the upper echelon and assume responsibility for his actions.

The Secretariat has also stipulated: the commander is not only accountable to the commander on the upper echelon and the party committee on his echelon, but also "to the masses for the results achieved in commanding and managing the unit in the performance of each task." This stems from our party's view that we must "make the people the base, from the requirement set forth by the Sixth Party Congress that "the attitude of being in the service of the people always be displayed in the activities of cadres, party members and state personnel. This is the foremost standard in evaluating the qualities of each person." (Footnote 14) (Ibid., p 111)

In each of his activities, the revolutionary cadre and the communist party member cannot simply take into consideration the upper echelon or simply work for the upper echelon. Only by respecting and concerning himself with human beings can he tap the creativity of each cadre and soldier and focus this creativity on achieving the successful performance of each of the unit's tasks.

As he performs his duties, the commander is involved in many different relationships. These are: the relationship between himself and the party committee; between himself and the agency on the upper echelon; between himself and the party committee and party secretary on

his echelon; and between himself and the cadres and soldiers of the unit and the local administration. Establishing and maintaining these relationships in exact accordance with the views of the party are a decisive factor in the successful completion of tasks by the commander. They are also a manifestation of the cadre's qualities and ethics, his style of leadership and command and his ability to act.

On the basis of the function and tasks of the party committees on the various echelons, the Secretariat has stipulated that "the commander must obey the collective leadership of the party committee, promptly report to the party committee on his unit's situation and the task assigned by the upper echelon and propose work policies and leadership measures to the party committee for it to discuss and decide. He has the responsibility of seriously implementing resolutions of the party committee as required by his duties."

Thus, the commander's relationship with the unit's party committee is a subordinate relationship. He is subordinate to the leadership of the party committee.

When performing the tasks assigned by the upper echelon and implementing the resolutions of the party committee on his echelon, the commander has a close and constant relationship with the party committee secretary. The party committee secretary is the person who manages the work of the party committee. He is appointed by the party committee. His appointment is approved by the party committee on the upper echelon. On the basis of resolutions of the executive committee and standing committee and directives of the upper echelon, he performs the daily work of the party and organizes and inspects compliance with these resolutions and directives. He is responsible to the party committee on his echelon and the party committee on the upper echelon for how he leads the unit in the performance of its task and for what he does to build a pure, solid and strong party organization.

Thus, "the party committee secretary and the unit commander work within the party organization and the unit in accordance with the duties assigned to them, under the leadership of the party committee and within a close organizational relationship based on the leadership mechanism of the party with the aim of completing tasks they share in common well." (Footnote 15) (Regulations of the Secretariat on "the organization of the party within the Vietnam People's Army.") Consequently, the relationship between the unit commander and the party committee secretary is one of coordinating work. Both the commander and the party committee secretary are responsible to the upper echelon and to the party committee and the masses within their unit for the results achieved in the performance of the unit's political task. Therefore, the relationship of coordinating work that exists between the commander and the party committee secretary must be a model of responsibility, unity and

mutual respect and assistance aimed at completing common tasks. Establishing and maintaining this relationship in exact accordance with the views of the party is a very important factor in building unity and consensus within the unit and increasing the effectiveness of party leadership and the effectiveness of the management provided by the commander. If impure, personal motives are allowed to enter into this relationship, if this relationship becomes a matter of "who holds the higher rank, who is subordinate to whom"(!) or if this relationship is not marked by party spirit and the spirit of comradeship but based only on comparisons of rank and position within the administration, it will inevitably give rise to jealousy, factions and loss of unity, which will harm their common work and the unit and not enhance the prestige of either person.

In this relationship, the party committee secretary and the unit commander must, in the spirit of unity and respect for each other's position and responsibility, promptly inform each other of new resolutions of the party committee and orders and directives of the commander on the upper echelon, take the initiative in discussing and gaining a thorough understanding of tasks, reach agreement in their assessment of the unit's situation, propose work policies and leadership measures and work together on preparing reports so that decisions can be made by the party committee. The party committee secretary and the commander must also discuss and reach agreement concerning the plan for inspecting the organizations of the party, agencies, units, cadres, party members and soldiers in the implementation of resolutions of the party committee and the performance of the tasks of the unit to insure that these resolutions and tasks are thoroughly understood and are implemented and performed with high productivity, quality and efficiency.

The unity and consensus between the commander and the party committee secretary must be expressed in the two taking the same views toward how the problems of the unit should be resolved. When their opinions differ, the party committee secretary and the commander must discuss the matter in order to reach agreement. If they discuss it thoroughly but fail to reach an agreement, they must promptly report their disagreement to the party committee or the standing committee so that they can discuss and decide the matter. The party committee secretary and the commander must then comply with the decision of the collective. In this way, the problem of each person acting in a different way and performing work as he sees fit can be avoided.

One important task of the organizations of the party within the army is to lead the unit in actively participating in the maintenance of political security, the maintenance of social order and safety and other jobs, thereby helping to build the locality in which troops are stationed. The Party Statutes (Article 38) state that "the organizations of the party and the commanders of the units of the People's Army must respect and maintain

close relations with the party committee and administration in the locality in which their troops are stationed..." The regulations of the Secretariat on "the organizations of the party within the Vietnam People's Army" also set specific requirements. These are the guidelines for achieving "a single will shared by the armed forces and the people," which is a constant and important political task related to the class character of our army.

In summary, the "one person in command" policy is a structural component of the mechanism by which the party leads the army. The commander plays the decisive role in organizing the implementation of the resolutions of the party committee on his echelon concerning military tasks. Good management and command make positive contributions to increasing the effectiveness of the leadership provided by the party organization. Therefore, the party committees on the various echelons have the responsibility of "constantly strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of the 'one person in command' policy." This requirement of the Secretariat represents the application and concretization of clauses of Article 27 and Article 34 of the Party Statutes (on building and strengthening the organization and developing the role of the administration) in the army.

Strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of the "one person in command" policy are jobs that entail many different requirements.

First, the party committee must issue correct resolutions, achieve a high degree of consensus internally and closely inspect implementation to insure that the organization of the party is truly the solid base of the commander.

Second, it must concern itself with training the corps of command cadres in order to cultivate good political qualities, good skills and a good style of work. Commanders must always take the stand of the working class. They must thoroughly understand and fully comply with the lines and policies of the party and state and the tasks assigned by their superiors. They must display democratic collectivism in conjunction with being decisive and daring to assume responsibility. Their style must be thorough, practical and close to the masses. They must concern themselves with others and set an example in their way of life. They must always work to increase their knowledge and their ability to lead, command and manage. They must have the trust of subordinate cadres and soldiers.

Cadres must be closely managed and accurately evaluated. Plans must be adopted to train and forge them in order to create the conditions for cadres to grow and prepare a solid corps of prospective cadres. Cadres must be promoted at the right time and used at the right place. The efforts of the commander and the party committee secretary must be correctly combined so that they support and augment each other in all areas.

Third, the party committee must provide the leadership needed to maintain compliance with principles and work regulations, correctly establish its various relationships in accordance with the views of the party and periodically review its experience in order to build upon strengths and promptly correct any shortcomings or problems that might arise.

The party committee must lead the work of building command, specialized and professional agencies that are solid and strong, maintain close contact with practice, listen to the opinions of subordinate units, assess the situation, accurately report on the situation to leaders and the commander, make correct proposals and organize the thorough and efficient implementation of decisions of the commander.

Fifth, the party committee must lead subordinate party organizations and the cadres and soldiers of the unit in strictly complying with the orders of the commander.

Thus, "strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of the 'one person in command' policy are not a matter of increasing the role and authority of the individual nor merely a matter of leading the lower echelon in strictly complying with the orders of the commander. Rather, they entail the full performance of a series of related jobs, such as those described above, that have a strong impact upon one another and are aimed at successfully implementing the orders of the upper echelon and the resolutions of the party committee on one's echelon. Doing this well also helps to increase the effectiveness of the leadership provided by the organization of the party.

The Political Agency

Performing party-political work is a principle of the party in building the revolutionary armed forces. The basic task in party-political work is to conduct the ideological and organizational work of the party within the army. Thus, the party implements its leadership not only through the system of party organizations on the various echelons, but also through the ideological and organizational activities of the political agencies. The tasks of the party's ideological and organizational work in the army are: to constantly consolidate and strengthen the party's leadership and build army party organizations that are pure, solid and strong; to cultivate the working class character and uphold the glorious traditions of the nation, the party and the army; to build an army that is solid and strong politically, ideologically and organizationally; to insure that each cadre, soldier and national defense worker possesses unquestioned loyalty to the socialist fatherland, to the people, firmly adheres to the ideals of communism, obeys the leadership of the party without question, closely unites around the Party Central Committee, is close to the working people of the fraternal nationalities within Vietnam, maintains close internal unity and is loyal to our international friends; and to build units that are solid and strong in every respect, possess high fighting strength,

maintain combat readiness, fight victoriously, firmly defend the socialist fatherland, eagerly participate in labor to build the country and fulfill their international obligation. Thus, the basic tasks and the objectives of party-political work stem from the tasks of the party organizations of the army. In other words, the basic tasks and the objectives of party-political work are inseparable from the tasks of the party organizations of the army that are recorded in the Party Statutes.

On the basis of the fundamental tasks of party-political work, the Secretariat has defined the organizational system of political agencies, the function of each echelon and the duties and organizational structure of the Political General Department. It is on this basis that the Political General Department establishes the duties and organizational structure of the political agencies on the lower echelons and the political cadres on each echelon. Here, certain principles and requirements have been restored and some things have been changed or augmented to be consistent with practice.

"On each echelon, there is a political agency and political cadres to undertake the ideological work and organizational work of the party within the army under the leadership of the party committee on their echelon and the guidance of the political agency on the upper echelon." (Footnote 16) (Article 38 of the Party Statutes) Thus, the political agency is, in essence, a party agency, one which has the basic function of performing ideological work and organizational work, which are a very important part of the leadership activities of the party within the army.

Political agencies also have the responsibility of helping commanders to perform various political activities within the unit, such as organizing the teaching of politics to cadres and soldiers; strengthening discipline; organizing cultural-spiritual life; organizing and guiding socialist emulation movements; strengthening internal unity, unity between the armed forces and people, international solidarity and so forth. These are matters related to the duties of the commander which he must organize in accordance with the directives of the upper echelon and the resolutions of the party committee on his echelon.

Under the regulations of the Secretariat, the organizational system of political agencies extends from the all-army echelon (the Political General Department) to the basic combat and combat support units (the political sections), such as those in the regiments and the district, ward, precinct, city and similar local military agencies.

In the national defense enterprises, where the majority of personnel is manual workers and civil servants, there is no political section. Rather, the mechanism "the party leads, workers and civil servants exercise ownership and the director manages" is applied in accordance with the general requirements of the party and state.

The political agencies on each echelon must operate in accordance with the functions established for them by the Secretariat. These are the concretization of the principles of party-political work, are the guidelines for adopting a new style of work, which include work standards, decision-making standards and standards on how to implement decisions.

The organizational structure of the political agencies on each echelon must be consistent with the basic function and the specific duties of each echelon. It must provide for centralized, unified guidance; coordinate each aspect of ideological and organizational work; closely combine all aspects of ideological, organizational and policy work; and closely combine building and managing the corps of cadres with building and managing the corps of party members. If rational, the organizational structure of political agencies will help to make the other functional agencies on each echelon streamlined and effective, eliminate the need for deputy commanders on many echelons and insure that work is performed quickly and the organizational and leadership principles of the party are implemented well. On the basis of this view, the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee has proposed a new organizational structure of political agencies to the Party Secretariat for it to consider and approve. In essence, and in the area of fundamental importance, these changes to the organizational structure will restore the structure of the political agency as an agency of the party and closely tie it to the party committee system on all echelons.

Whether the quality and effectiveness of the leadership provided by the organizations of the party are high or low also depends, to a rather large degree, upon the quality and size of the corps of political cadres—the specialists who perform the ideological and organizational work of the party within the army.

By solving the very basic problems raised in the resolution of the Sixth Congress, in the Party Statutes and in resolutions of the Political Bureau, the Secretariat and the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee since the Sixth Congress, the party has set guidelines for and clearly presented the primary requirements involved in building and improving the quality of the corps of political cadres.

As regards the size of this corps, the Secretariat has established a number of new positions (a deputy commander or headquarters assistant in charge of politics who does not also hold the post of political director; specialized Youth Union chapter secretaries in combat units or direct combat support units...) in order to create sources of prospective cadres.

Thus, the premise needed to build a corps of political cadres of the size and quality needed to meet the requirements of tasks has been created. The matters of decisive significance now are for the party committees on all echelons to make diligent efforts to select, train

and utilize cadres and enable them to grow and mature and for each political cadre to make every effort to improve himself in terms of his perception and views on the job, his sense of responsibility and revolutionary zeal, his desire to improve himself and raise his standards in every field and his style of leadership and work.

Mass Work

In keeping with the spirit of the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress and deeply imbued with the lessons "make the people the base" and "the revolution is an undertaking of the masses," the documents of the Party Secretariat and the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee place mass work in a position of central importance.

The regulations of the Secretariat point out that the various party committee echelons have the tasks of "establishing and fully developing the functions of the mass organizations in exact accordance with the views of the party; tightening the relationship between the party and the masses; praising the socialist awareness and improving the revolutionary qualities and ethics and the standards of the masses in every field through constant education; looking after the spiritual and material lives of the masses and creating every possible condition for them to complete their tasks; and training and forging the new, socialist man through the performance of tasks." (Footnote 17) (The regulations of the Party Secretariat on "the organization of the party within the Vietnam People's Army) The Military Commission of the Party Central Committee requires that the basic organizations of the party "have a deep understanding of the thinking and aspirations of each cadre, soldier and national defense worker and civil servant; promptly meet the pressing legitimate and rational requirements of the masses within the scope of the unit's capabilities; show concern for the spiritual and material lives and the progress of the masses; respect the dignity and uphold the democratic rights of cadres and soldiers; cultivate self-awareness; tap the activism and creativity of each person in construction, combat and work; build a solid and strong Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and National Defense Trade Union; and respect the independence of these organizations and encourage them to display initiative and creativity and adopt new themes and modes of activity in the performance of tasks and in accordance with their functions." (Footnote 18) (The regulations of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee on "the organization of the basic organizations of the party within the Vietnam People's Army)

The socialist democratic rights of soldiers and cadres must be manifested in all areas. How the material wealth created through productive labor is used must be decided with the participation of cadres and soldiers. This wealth must be used in an open and fair manner with a view toward maintaining and improving the

material and spiritual lives of the unit. The unit commander must assume direct responsibility to the masses for the results of how he organizes, commands and manages the unit in the performance of each task. The practice of holding a "political day" at companies so that the leadership and command cadre on the upper echelon can periodically meet and hold a dialogue with the cadres and soldiers of basic units is an innovation from the standpoint of style and an expression of the mass view. In order for the democratic rights of the masses to not become an empty slogan, they must be defined in the form of specific stipulations in the nature of regulations. The political agency must help the party committee supervise, guide and inspect implementation, praise good persons and good work and criticize persons who make mistakes and do things incorrectly. It must encourage and arrange for the masses to supervise implementation and create the conditions for them to directly and quickly express their opinions to the upper echelon.

The corps of cadres who perform youth work and trade union work has been confirmed as being a part of the corps of political cadres. The building of the corps of cadres who perform youth work and trade union work must be included in overall planning and plans must be adopted for thoroughly training these persons so that they perform their tasks well.

The mechanism by which the party leads the Vietnam People's Army was approved and incorporated in the Party Statutes by the Sixth Congress of the Party. This mechanism reflects the spirit of change in organizational and cadre work, reflects the adoption of a new style of leadership and is steeped in principle.

If cadres and party members, particularly the leadership and command cadre of the different echelons, sectors and units, fully embrace the spirit of change, display high party spirit and implement the leadership mechanism of the party in exact accordance with its basic views and elements, they will surely make positive contributions to improving the leadership skills and increasing the fighting strength of each party organization and the combined strength of each unit and, on this basis, bring about a strong change in the quality and effectiveness of the leadership of the army party organization and the fighting strength and level of combat readiness of the entire army.

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ECONOMIC

Hanoi, HCM City Adopt Measures To Avoid Tax Shortfall
42090051a Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
6 Oct 87 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City Take Measures To Fight Tax Shortfall"]

[Text] The task in the 3 remaining months of this year of Ho Chi Minh City's industrial and commercial tax sector is still quite heavy because in the last 9 months it fulfilled

only 42 percent of the tax collection goal of the year. It has been carrying out many measures aimed at fighting tax shortfall. As an immediate step, it is trying to collect large amounts of cash by aiming at the already-established taxpayers and the key areas so as to help reduce the current cash deficit and to fight speculators, smugglers, and unlawful business people.

The committees for the guidance against tax shortfall at the municipal, ward, and district levels, in coordination with the tax, statistics, and business household classification sectors, have been posting the amounts of tax that the private business households have failed to pay. In the case of cooperative stores, tax collectors are sent there to get the payments. In the case of joint and livelihood enterprises, if they are found to have operated either ineffectively or not exactly as their functions dictate, back taxes will be collected from them, or the entire income that has resulted from the operations beyond their functions and from price differences will be collected; private business people and small industry and handicraft installations will pay the tax for the part of business that has involved tax evasion; in the case of "disguised" collective production installations, which must be changed to individual status, back taxes along with fines must be paid, the latter being based on price differences and false bookkeeping entries. The committees are determined to collect all of the taxes being generated every month and all back taxes. The business households and production installations that have received second notices of tax payment will have to pay fines equal to 9 percent of the tax. If they deliberately try to avoid payment, their business will be terminated and licenses revoked. The public security and market management sectors, in coordination with the tax sector, are to go after speculators, smugglers, and unlawful business people at the staging points for transfer and transportation of smuggled and untaxed goods.

In the campaign against tax shortfall that ran from 15 to 25 September 1987, the tax sector, along with other interested sectors, discovered that 806 large business households had been omitted, thus raised the total number of such households under the municipality's management to over 15,000, and collected tens of millions of dong of additional taxes. A total of 113 cases of tax evasion were discovered resulting in the collection of 17 million dong of back taxes, with the most outstanding case being the collection of 3 million dong of back taxes from the Binh Dong Port livelihood enterprise, which served as a cover for private people to do business without paying taxes. A joint enterprise in the 6th Precinct had to pay 2.8 million dong for having pocketed money resulting from price differences. A production household that had been putting false turnover entries in its book and doing business beyond the limits of its functions was fined 8 million dong. The tax collection station of Nha Rong Port discovered a case of smuggling of 40 kilograms of aloe (*Aquilaria agallocha*).

In the same short-term control campaign, the tax sector found that many corporations had spent the cash tax

money contributed by shareholders and cooperative stores and later made tax payments through bank transfers. The 5th Precinct General Commercial Corporation owed a total of 54 million dong of both business and income taxes, which compelled the sector to impose a fine equal to 30 percent of that amount. More than 90 percent of joint enterprises had activities going beyond the limits of their functions. Some joint enterprises had 270 people but only three of them being from the organ in charge.

A result of the campaign was the fact that the tax sector had an opportunity to go over the ranks of cadres and civil servants and to expel those who had been passive, backward, and degraded.

At the present time, Hanoi has 25,000 tax-paying business and service households. If only the business households having fixed business locations are counted, Hanoi still has about 5,000 households that have not yet paid taxes, with unpaid taxes amounting to 5-6 million dong per month. Among the tax-paying households, a common occurrence is false declaration of turnovers for tax purposes (some households have declared figures as much as 60-70 percent less than actual turnovers).

Consequently, as of the end of August, the Hanoi industrial and commercial tax sector was able to collect only 43 percent of the goal set for this year.

The municipality's tax sector, in coordination with other sectors and echelons, particularly the ward echelon, was able to adjust in time the tax levels in order to reduce the shortfall in connection with the number of households and turnovers.

In Hoan Kiem Ward, the sector helped 250 households, which had just withdrawn from jointly-operated stores, to continue doing business. As a result, the ward was able to collect 10-12 million dong of additional taxes per month.

The industrial and commercial tax offices of Ba Dinh, Hai Ba Trung, and Dong Da Wards also took a number of medium and large business households from the marketing cooperatives they used to belong to and collected from them taxes that reflected more closely the state of their business.

The tax sector has also submitted to the municipality petitions that would strengthen management, collect taxes from individual small business and handicraft households classified as professional ones, and limit the number of households that have been hiding behind the family-based economic screen to hire employees and to avoid paying taxes.

3 Major Foreign Trade Problems

42090069a *Hanoi NGOAI THUONG* in Vietnamese
Jul 87 pp 9-11

[Article by Nguyen The Uan: "Three Major Foreign Trade Difficulties Must Be Overcome"]

[Text] Our foreign trade is beset with three major difficulties: the difficulty regarding the balance of payments with foreign countries; the difficulty regarding the domestic balance of payments; and the difficulty regarding the organization of implementation.

Those three difficulties have hindered all foreign trade activities.

First, there is the problem of the balance of payments with foreign countries. At present our country is in a very difficult situation with regard to its international balance of payments with both socialist and capitalist countries. More and more debts are falling due and exports are insufficient to pay them off, or even to pay the interest. We are encountering many difficulties in obtaining new loans because of a lack of confidence in our ability to repay them.

The effectiveness of importing is too low. That is true even in the case of many services. The construction of a considerable number of factories of the central and local echelons has been prolonged, or after they are constructed their capacity is not fully utilized, which wastes capital and requires additional investment in maintenance. Wasting the capacities of dozens of ships to import goods is an inefficient way to import. The same is true with regard to many other means of production. The effectiveness of utilization has also been restricted because of the bureaucratic-subsidizing mechanism.

Importing by means of short-term loans to take advantage of domestic price disparities to balance local budgets has caused harm in many ways: first, it has caused additional inflation; second, it has disturbed circulation and distribution; third, it has slowed down production; fourth, it has given rise to negative social phenomena.

In fact, everyone knows that imports, especially importing by means of short-term loans to take advantage of domestic price disparities are a poison that becomes increasingly dangerous the more it is imbibed because it brings about many negative reactions within the entire economy.

Borrowing from foreign countries is not centralized in one agency. Borrowers may obtain loans anywhere and repay their own loans. The sources of money to repay the loans are diverse, overlapping, and subjected to competition. The state cannot take the initiative in repaying them. Therefore, borrowing is chaotic and the repayment of loans is even more chaotic. Many borrowing services do not have clear and explicit plans for repaying debts, so when debts fall due they cannot be repaid. The

more difficulty we encounter the more difficult it is to obtain additional loans. That is one of the difficulties which have upset our external balance of payments.

We believe that in order to overcome those problems it is necessary to apply positive management.

Centralizing borrowing from foreign countries in a single agency in order to closely regulate them and have goals with regard to the needs for imports to serve production and life. We must bring an end to the present situation, which permits many places to join together in borrowing from and repaying foreign countries, for that not only does not increase our capacity to repay debts but makes the above-mentioned process of borrowing and repaying debts even more chaotic.

When a loan is obtained there must be a plan to repay it. If there can be no plan to repay the loan the money should not be borrowed, for borrowing without repayment plans will cause our country's international balance of payments to become increasingly difficult and deadlocked.

In this case it is even more important to encourage the exploitation and use of the domestic sources of raw materials and materials to serve production and life. We must reserve foreign exchange to meet the most essential goals, and not import high-grade consumer goods to take advantage of price disparities, as at present.

We must eliminate categories of imports that have been imported or are being imported that are ineffective. Whenever possible we should re-export imported equipment and machinery that is inappropriate and does not generate foreign exchange, but requires additional foreign exchange for maintenance.

With regard to agriculture, it is necessary to reexamine the utilization effectiveness of the various kinds of fertilizer and insecticide imported from both socialist and capitalist countries. It is necessary to encourage the development of the sources of green fertilizer and manure, and organize and manage, as closely and effectively as possible, the use of insecticides and many other means of agricultural production.

Second, from the point of view of the domestic financial balance with regard to exports and imports:

At present, because of many mistakes regarding money, prices, and salaries, the process of balancing the economic value of the national economy in general, and foreign trade specifically, is being upset.

The value earned by the nation per ruble/dollar is insufficient to make up for the expenses incurred in earning one ruble/dollar worth of exports. Indeed, the volume of imports is more than double the volume of exports. More than half of the imports are financed by borrowing from foreign countries, and exports do not

make up for imports. In view of that situation, what can be done to promote exporting-importing nationwide and accumulate foreign exchange with which to develop production.

State materials, especially materials imported by the central echelon, cannot be directly affected by the commodity laws because their values are determined artificially. In fact, the state sells imported materials at prices that are too low, which both causes a financial short-fall and leaves things up to the market. Commodities are affected by the law of value. When the regulatory measures of the state are not in accord with those laws the commodities have effects which are contrary to the intentions of the state. The close combination between administrative management and economic management at present has an extremely important significance in controlling materials in order to balance the national economy with regard to value.

The free market is prepared to absorb state materials in many different forms, which creates major problems for circulation, distribution, prices, and salaries. The redistribution of the national income is not along the lines on ensuring that the state grows stronger but, on the contrary, benefits the free market. The budget continues to suffer large deficits, inflation has increased at a rapid rate, and salaries continue to decline to a serious extent.

Accumulation by the national economy, especially by means of imports financed by foreign credit, cannot be accomplished because foreign credit cannot balance the budget, balance prices, or balance salaries, so how can it contribute to accumulation to develop domestic production?

The very serious imbalance in the domestic balance of payments has slowed down and stagnated the production and state purchasing of export goods.

In order to effectively overcome that situation, there is no other path than that of implementing the most severe financial-monetary policy. All foreign exchange that is earned must be controlled by the state in order to restore a proportional relationship between Vietnamese currency and foreign currencies, especially the ruble and the U.S. dollar, that is proper and is unified throughout the nation. Capital borrowed from foreign countries must be a source of state accumulation for production and capital construction. There must be a correct internal consumption policy in order to regulate production and life and to control imports.

Third, the difficulty regarding the organization and management mechanism.

Under the conditions of an excessive budget deficit, serious monetary inflation, prices which increase almost spontaneously, and salaries that are in fact allowed to

drift, the economic organization and management mechanism in general and foreign trade specifically must not be dispersed, fragmentary, and partialistic.

There must be proper concentration in economic management in order to create strength for the central state. It is necessary to eliminate the unnecessary intermediate stages which have upset the reproduction processes in our country. At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish clearly between the administrative-professional and production-commercial systems.

We must resolutely oppose all instances of excessive direct intervention by the administrative-professional organs in production and commerce to divide up profits, which causes expenses and production costs to increase steadily.

With regard to foreign trade, there must be a unified nationwide organization and management mechanism to ensure that trade and cooperation with foreign countries are highly effective economically, ensure the positive balancing of the external and internal payment balances, ensure the sector policies of the party and state and the direction of developing export goods in our country, etc.

In order to restrict the negative economic-social phenomena in our country, the state must properly implement the system of foreign trade monopoly.

All improvements of the foreign trade organization and management mechanisms of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are based on the actual situation of each nation. We cannot mechanically imitate them because our country's situation is completely different.

With regard to our country, the concentrated strength of our state has steadily declined because the state cannot control the sources of materials in the country, especially export-import goods. If they are further dispersed, the situation of imbalance in foreign trade will be difficult to overcome. The external market will take advantage of the dispersion in exporting-importing to infiltrate and penetrate the domestic market. If we allow foreign exchange, especially capitalist foreign exchange, by means of dispersed exporting-importing (beyond the inspection-control capability of the state), to freely subvert Vietnamese money, as it has done for a long time now, how can we reduce the budget deficit, inflation, and price increases?

Bringing an end to the present situation may enable the localities to experience difficulties in the short range because they can no longer take advantage of price disparities in exporting-importing to balance their budgets. Therefore, resolving the difficulties of local budgets will have an important significance in overcoming the dispersion of exporting-importing. It is necessary to

unify the central and local budgets, cut out irrational expenses, and distinguish between administrative-professional expenses and production-commercial expenses.

Because our export-import index is still very low, we should not disperse the production of export-import goods to too many places, but must:

Concentrate export-import goods in order to have strength in foreign trade and have conditions for investing in large-scale production.

Unify the merchant and market sector policy in order to have a relatively stable network of merchants to serve the export-import plans.

Ensure a trade balance with foreign countries and a domestic balance of payments with regard to all of the nation's exports and imports.

Bring into play the strength of professional services in foreign trade activities. Only if there is a rational degree of concentration can there be a corps of expert foreign trade cadres. Excessive dispersion and delay in training will cause much harm because of the shortage of professional cadres.

Overcoming those three problems in a fierce, complicated struggle. But its significance is very great because it will be indispensable in fulfilling the export-import missions in future years.

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Export-Import Results During First Half of 1987 42090068a Hanoi NGOAI THUONG in Vietnamese Jul 87 pp 4-5

[Text] Experience has shown that if only 40 percent of the annual export plan is attained during the first 6 months of the year it will be very difficult to fulfill the plan during the last 6 months. During the first 6 months of this year that requirement was not fulfilled: only 37.7 percent of the national export plan was attained. That was a little more (3 million rubles) than during the first 6 months of 1986. In view of the country's complicated and difficult situation at present, that accomplishment represented a great effort on the part of the sectors, echelons, and export-import units.

However, if that figure (37.7 percent) is analyzed in depth it may be seen that there are many complicated problems. The export index of the central export-import organizations accounted for only 53 percent of the total and was nearly 10 percent lower than during the same period of 1986. Of the eight ministries and general departments, only three attained relatively high levels. For example, the Ministry of Maritime Products attained 54 percent of its annual plan norm, an increase of 38 percent of its annual plan norm, an increase of 38 percent over the same period last year. The Ministry of

Forestry attained 40 percent of its annual norm. The Ministry of Foreign Trade attained 33 percent of its annual norm, which was a slight increase over the same period last year. The remaining five ministries and general departments, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Food Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Rubber General Department attained only 22 to 32 percent of their annual plan norms and declined in comparison to the same period last year. Because the central export-import organizations fell short of their norms, the volume of goods delivered to the socialist market amounted to only 27 percent of the Protocol concluded between our country and the fraternal socialist countries. The highest level attained in delivering goods to a socialist country was only 31 percent, and the lowest level only 5 percent, of the volumes called for by the Protocol.

Meanwhile, the export-import index of the localities (in addition to goods delivered to the central echelon) amounted to 47 percent of the annual norms and increased by 15.5 percent over the same period last year. It is noteworthy that Ho Chi Minh City attained 45 million dollars, the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone attained 7 million, Hau Giang attained 6 million, Hanoi and Quang Nam-De Nang attained 4 million, Hai Phong, Kien Giang, and Cuu Long attained 2 million, etc. The localities attained only 17 percent of the state plan norm regarding the delivery of goods to the central echelon, which was too low in comparison to the capabilities and requirements of the mission. Especially, the contracts signed between the localities and the central general corporations with regard to goods with high foreign exchange value covered only small amounts. For example, coffee contracts covered only 32 percent; peanuts, 19 percent; soybeans, 26 percent; pepper, 45 percent; and cinnamon 52 percent, in comparison to the amounts called for by the state plan norm.

Those figures reflect the fact that the situation did not change in comparison to 1986 and to the preliminary recapitulation report on the first 3 months of this year. Although the Sixth Party Congress confirmed that exports were one of the three major programs of the entire party and entire population which we must concentrate on implementing, but there is as yet no specific and complete mechanism and policy of the state which is appropriate to the renovation requirements, so we are still confused in guiding the organization of its implementation. The planning, materials supply, financial-monetary, and other mechanisms have not yet been renovated, so the production-commercial units have not yet developed their autonomy or shifted over to socialist economic accounting. Although this year the output of a number of industrial export crops, such as coffee, pepper, peanuts, soybeans, etc., were good, the commercial units could not sign purchasing contracts because they did not have sufficient money and exchange goods, and the stipulated prices were not appropriate to the rapidly

changing market situation. Materials, secondary materials, and electricity for industries producing export goods were not ensured. The prices paid to industrial and small industry-handicrafts producers were still based on an outdated foreign exchange price ratio (18 dong per ruble-dollar), so they were too low and did not encourage workers to directly produce export goods.

A major problem is that the localities which deliver goods according to plans assigned by the central echelon for export to the socialist market suffer very large losses which the local budgets cannot make up for, and excessively large amounts of materials are still owned to the people. One locality which met its plan obligation of 1,000 tons of peanuts suffered a loss of more than 200 million dong. The reason was that the price ratio mechanism and the mechanism of using exports to make up for imports have not yet been renovated, and are not due to the nature of the market.

The resolution of the second plenum of the VCP Central Committee set forth the policy of ensuring that exporting to socialist countries is as profitable as or more profitable than the other markets, but there are as yet no specific mechanisms and policies to implement it. The bureaucratic concentration with regard to the distribution of materials has led to the situation of not being able to control the sources of goods of the central-level socialist commercial units.

Although much progress has been made in the management and direction of the Ministry of Foreign Trade in order to resolve that situation, they are still patch-work and passive and the Ministry awaits common mechanisms of the state in utilizing the economic levers. For example, it is awaiting price, price ratio, and export-import tax mechanisms, and the policies toward dividing foreign exchange incomes between the central and local echelons, etc.

Those are primary factors which are subjective and can thus be overcome. Of course, in addition there are objective reasons arising from an economy that has always been impoverished, is not yet stable, and is imbalanced in many ways. Last year the weather was very unfavorable, which greatly affected production and social life.

The pressing problems of the requirement to promote production are posing for our party and state, for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the combined management organs, and for the sectors and echelons the necessity of promptly drafting specific export programs, promptly promulgating an export policy, promptly drafting an export-import management mechanism that is appropriate to the requirement of eliminating the system of bureaucratic centralism-state subsidies, transfer the export-import production-commercial units to socialist commercial accounting, and promptly reorganize the foreign trade organizational system so that it can be appropriate to the domestic production requirements

and the international market and be in accord with the principle of the state monopolizing foreign trade. The basic matter is to renovate foreign trade planning and resolve problems regarding materials and the prices of export-import goods.

Although they are facing myriad difficult problems, the export-import commercial units at both the central and local levels have affirmed their determination to overcome the difficulties and assist one another in order to fulfill the remaining missions of the last 6 months of this year and surpass the export norm of 850 million rubles-dollars set by the National Assembly. Especially, the sectors and localities have a high degree of unanimity in striving to deliver the full amount of goods to the Soviet Union during October of this year in order to manifest a spirit of militant solidarity and unshakable fraternal friendship between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, to celebrate in a practical manner the 70th anniversary of the great Russian October Revolution.

In addition to the difficulties, there are great advantages in the export work. With a high degree of unanimity on the part of the entire party and the entire population toward renovation in the spirit of the resolutions of the Party Congress and Central Committee plenums, and with existing experience and the tradition of endeavoring to overcome difficulties of the units throughout the sector, it is certain that this year's export-import plan will be fulfilled.

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Piling up, Slow Moving of Cargo at Haiphong Port Explained

42090051b Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnam
6 Oct 87 p 2

[Article by Minh Son: "Why Do Materials, Goods Regularly Pile up, Move Slowly at Haiphong Port?"]

[Text]

Thousands of Tons Piling up

Between the end of 1981 and the middle of September this year, the guidance committee in charge of investigating, retrieving, and handling properties in the Haiphong Port area acted 15 times to remove a total volume of 21,000 tons of unclaimed goods. Of this large volume of goods only 3,961 tons of steel were known to have been long forgotten by its owner, but owners of the rest could not be found, which "compelled" a number of ministries, specialized-management sectors, and localities to put them in their own warehouses in order to permit cleaning up and restoring storage space in the port.

Haiphong Port had gone through many "campaigns for freeing" itself of goods. Many labor forces and important means of a number of sectors and localities were mobilized for fighting against the piling up of goods here. By taking active and firm measures the port made considerable progress. Warehouses and storage yards were clearly designated and rearranged to become neater, more visible, and less messy; customers sometimes praised the port for efficient freeing of ships and delivery and receipt of goods. But the port had to go a long way before it would reach the level of its tasks and satisfy the urgent needs created by the economy. Piling up of goods regularly took place. As of 15 September 1987, the volume of goods having piled up in the port had reached an alarming level. Excluding hundreds of thousands of tons of goods still unloaded from 21 ships which had been waiting for their turn to dock at the piers, the volume of goods having piled up in the yards and warehouses totaled 93,000 tons, or about 40 tons more than the permitted level. This included 75,000 tons of iron and steel, equipment, and spare parts, and 13,000 tons of goods that had piled up prior to 1986 and remained unclaimed because of unknown owners.

Tran Dinh Nhac, director of Enterprise No 2 (formerly Cargo Handling Area No 2) of Haiphong Port, took us to some of the warehouses and yards which his enterprise was in charge of. Of the 36,000 tons of unclaimed goods there, up to 30,000 tons were totally uncovered from the sun and rains. In a storage yard about 1 kilometer long and nearly 30 meters wide there was a huge mass of iron and steel and equipment of all kinds, put together in a very disorderly manner, one on top of another, some crates still having bands around them and other pieces looking old and rusty. There were large-diameter pipes made of rustproof aluminum alloy, duralumin, the shape of which had changed because of the weight of hundreds of other goods piling on top of them. There also were pieces of equipment being rather large and cumbersome. Pointing to a heap of iron and steel and equipment, weighing about 1,000 tons, in front of Warehouse 11 and Pier 10, the director said: "This was the result of a 'general cleanup' of warehouses and yards following a whirlwind that occurred a few years ago, but so far it still remains unclaimed."

We were able to see for ourselves that those materials were deteriorating, with many bundles of round metals and pieces of flat iron showing stains and signs of rust.

Discrepancy Between Needs and Import

The reasons behind the above-mentioned situation first of all included the fact that for many consecutive years the plans for importing materials were often based on subjective wishes, which did not go along with the needs for equipment and machinery, and heavily relied on state subsidies. The materials, equipment, vehicles, and machinery brought in had nothing to do with the actual needs of sectors, localities, and production installations, nor did they suit our country's production conditions;

the materials needed for agricultural production particularly accounted for a very small percentage of the total import. The items that were urgently needed for the national economy, such as fertilizers, insecticide, chemicals, spare parts, and so on, were lacking so badly that their shortages created serious tension. The task of importing equipment and materials was not linked with the structure of the national economy, nor was it based on any unified economic program—a situation that has allowed some sectors, production installations, and localities to act according to their own convenience. There were quite a few cases of changes of leadership having resulted in changes of investment plans, hence, the abandonment of many pieces of equipment and materials, which for many years remained unclaimed while being overgrown with grass and moss.

Another reason was the fact that when contracts were signed with other countries for the purchase and exchange of materials, we had not thought about or taken any steps to ensure the ability to transport these goods to our country. For instance, at the end of 1986 we still had a rather large volume of materials and goods abroad because we did not have foreign exchange to pay for fuel and oil for our fleets to operate.

Tran Xuan Nhon, chief, Sea Transport General Department, told us that as of the end of March 1987 the sea transportation sector still owed foreign firms tens of millions of dong in foreign currencies because a day of operations of cargo ships would mean the use of large volumes of fuel and oil. In addition, there were charges to be paid, including a port-use charge, for a ship to enter a foreign port.

Reception of Goods Neglected

Goods owners play an important decisive role in regard to whether the port remains "empty or full" of goods. According to classification, goods owners fall into three major classes—private, collective, and state-operated. Private owners are the ones who are most concerned about the "fate" of their goods. They eagerly wait for receiving their goods from the time the cargo ship that carries them is still at sea, for some of them even know exactly its schedule, starting with its departure at a foreign port.

By the time the ship enters the port, they already are present in Haiphong after having arrived from provinces or other municipalities and are ready to fulfill the procedures for reception of the goods. Next to private owners are goods owners subordinate to collective economic units (who usually are assigned by the corporations that do work on contract to receive materials and raw materials at the port or come to receive the goods under their own direct contract assignment). They are interested in getting the materials and raw materials that will be delivered because their life and that of their families are closely linked with this source of supplied raw materials. Hoang Gia Sanh, former director of Hop

Luc Canvas Shoes Cooperative and now director of Shoes Enterprise No 4, a member of the Haiphong Union of Shoes Enterprises, explained in a generalized manner as follows: "If materials and raw materials arrived one day late, our production installation would be unable to do any productive work and thus would not make any products; as a result, on that day from the director to the more than 600 members of the cooperative, and at least that many dependents, would go hungry!"

What about goods owners who are subordinate to state-operated installations? One time we went along with a shipment by rail of materials from Haiphong Port to an agent of a goods owner in Ha Nam Ninh Province and found out that not every shipment would be eagerly awaited and received at the factory. A shipment which arrived at the "rest period" had to wait for 5 hours before the goods were put into its warehouse and even if it arrived during work hours, there could be delays because some workers were present and others were absent.

The fact was the state-operated economic installations were far from enthusiastic and eager to receive their goods. On the other hand, after the goods arrived in Haiphong and owners were identified, they had to go through many corporations before arriving at the state-operated production installations, which explained why the latter were not so eager to get them. Another fact was that if some corporations were late in putting the goods at the port to use, the wages of their people would not be reduced because of that failure. Recently, through a survey and investigation the guidance committee in charge of retrieving and handling properties discovered that 594 tons of wrapping paper of the Produce Export General Corporation, 222 tons of construction glass of the Hanoi Union of Import-Export Corporations, 235 sets of tires for Ben-la trucks of Hon Gai Coal Corporation, 8.8 tons of paper of the Chemicals General Department, and so on had been left in the port's yards exposed to the sun and rains for years without their owners paying any attention to them. But when they heard that their unclaimed goods would soon be removed and sold and the money from the sales would be put into public funds, these goods owners became panic-stricken and rushed to the port to ask that they be allowed to carry them away and to store them in a temporary place!

Workers, Means Getting Worse

Many workers in Haiphong port did not bother to do anything when they saw the destruction and deterioration of these materials and goods. They always felt that these goods were not theirs and whether they were there or were removed early or late would not affect their income. Other reasons behind the excessive piling up of goods were the fact that the sense of ownership of these workers is not strong enough and that their material interests still must be resolved in a satisfactory manner. This is a situation that gives rise to many phenomena.

such as causing breakages and mixups of goods; leaving goods with their empty shells only and nothing inside; behaving in an authoritarian manner; demanding bribes and stipends, and so on. To be fair, some of these phenomena resulted from the fact that the people who were assigned to receive the goods wanted to be treated with favor so as to earn some extra money for themselves.

Another important reason was the fact that the material and technical base and means of loading and unloading were too old and obsolete and that there was a shortage of spare parts. The needs for repairs and replacement of materials were always reduced. In 1987 although 50-70 tons of nylon threads were needed to make see-through bags, only 8 tons were supplied; only 20 of the 70 tons of cable needed were supplied, and they were of different sizes. More than half of the goods loaded and unloaded in the port were handled by manual labor, which resulted in low productivity.

Still another reason was the big difference between the imported goods and materials and the cargo-handling means being too poor and rudimentary. A foreigner said that the situation looked like "a road being wide at both ends but extremely narrow in the middle." Railroad, which is the principal means to carry iron and steel and cumbersome equipment, lacked coal to run locomotives. Trucks were in bad shape but were not yet repaired.

Although the Port of Haiphong plays an especially important role in creating many strengths for the municipality, the Municipal CPV and People's Committees have not yet set their mind on resolving the port's problems because of the fact that the management mechanism has too many ends and layers and that the committees themselves had to deal with many more urgent matters in the locality. These matters included ensuring the material interests of more than 7,000 workers, a task that helped prolong the serious lack of solidarity within the party committee and between the latter and the port director.

A Few Petitions

Enjoying the self-supporting right in production and business, a number of enterprises, such as the Haiphong Enamelled and Aluminum Wares Factory, Hanoi Tailoring Enterprise 10, and Thang Long Union of Export Ready-Made Clothing Enterprises, enthusiastically received materials. These units have organized forces and means to carry goods straight to the locations of production. This positive action has resulted from the fact that the basic-level economic units had to use their self-provided capital to buy materials, or the norms set for materials would have vital effects on production and the life of thousands of their workers.

On the basis of this reality, let us have these suggestions:

—The state should make an early study of a new mechanism for importing materials, equipment, and machinery giving direct producers the right to sign contracts to import materials, or to directly assign a corporation to do the importing work. The entire process starting with signing contracts and ending with putting materials to use should be considered properties of the basic-level economic units concerned and tax should be imposed on their goods right from the time they arrive at Haiphong Port.

—Because there still exists a lack of balance in our economy and because both shortage and surplus of materials and raw materials still may prevail in certain localities, the Guidance Committee in charge of investigating and removing properties in the Haiphong Port area should be allowed to use statistics and to inform the mass media of the materials and goods that have not been moved promptly from the port. If goods owners failed to show up to receive their goods before expiration of the set deadlines, the materials and goods that have piled up (no matter who are the owners and what kinds of goods) would be auctioned off to allow other economic components to put them to use in their production and business.

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